

Pamela Delia Johnston, *The Military Consilium in Republican Rome*. Piscataway, N.J.: Gorgias Press, 2008.

The *consilium*, or advisory council, played an important role in the everyday activities of the Roman magistrate in his role as military commander. This work is an in-depth look at the commander's *consilium* from its first depicted appearances in the accounts of the legendary period to 31 B.C.

More than an institution, the *consilium* adapted to meet changing needs and serves to illustrate how Romans felt about their own society. The role of the commander's *Consilium* can be seen as a pragmatic compromise between the desire for competent leadership and personal ambition on the one hand, and the Romans' ever-present fear of tyrannical behavior (if not actual tyranny) on the other hand.

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