

## Immigration Policies in the Age of Theodosius

### A) Themistius, Oration 14 (spring / summer 379 AD):

**181a-b: [a]** ἀνθ' ἀπάντων ἡμῖν γέγονας εἷς ἀνὴρ, ἀντὶ πάντων εἰς σέ ὀρῶμεν, ἀντὶ Δακῶν, ἀντὶ Θρακῶν, ἀντὶ Ἰλλυριῶν, ἀνθ' ὀπλιτῶν, ἀντὶ τῆς ἄλλης παρασκευῆς, ὀπόση σκιᾶς ἀθροώτερον ἠφανίσθη, καὶ προτροπάδην ἐλαύνομεν οἱ τέως καὶ διωκόμενοι. διὰ τὰς περὶ σοῦ λειπομένης ἡμῖν ἐλπίδας **[b]** ἐστήκαμεν, ἀναπνέομεν, τὸν δρόμον τῆς εὐπραγίας ἐφέξειν ἤδη Σκύθαις πιστεύομεν καὶ σβέσειν τὴν νεμομένην τὰ πάντα πυρκαϊάν, ἣν οὐκ ἔστησεν Αἴμος, οὐ Θρακῶν ὄρια, καὶ Ἰλλυριῶν, δυσπόρευτα καὶ ὀδοιπόρω...ποιεῖς δὲ ἤδη καὶ τοὺς γεωργοὺς φοβεροὺς τοῖς βαρβάροις, καὶ τοὺς μεταλλέας, καὶ τὸν χρυσὸν ἀφέντας κελεύεις τὸν σίδηρον μεταλλεῦειν. καὶ στρατὸς οὗτος ἄγευστος ἠδὲυαθείας ἤδη συνερρήκεν ἐθελοντῆς

**181a-b: [a]** “we look to you in place of all others Dacians, Thracians, Illyrians, men at arms and the rest of our armament all of which vanished away quicker than a shadow, and we, who were ourselves pursued, beat them vigorously. It is because of the hopes left to us in you that we have taken a stand **[b]** that we draw breath and believe that you shall now check the impetus of success for the Scythians and quench the conflagrations that devours all things, which neither the river Haemus could halt nor the boundaries of Thrace or Illyria....already you make even farmers a terror to the barbarian, and the miners too, whom you command to neglect gold and dig for iron. And this army which has not tasted the life of luxury has now come together voluntarily”(Trans. Heather- Moncur 2001, 225-226)

### B) Themistius, Oration 15 (January 381 AD):

**190d- 191a: 190 [d]** τοιγαροῦν ὧν τοῖς ὀπλοῖς οὐκ ἐκρατήσαμεν, τούτους τῇ σῆ πίστει προσηγαγόμεθα αὐτοκλήτους, καὶ ὥσπερ ἡ μαγνητικὴ λίθος ἡσυχῇ ἐφέλκεται τὰ σιδήρια, οὕτω καὶ αὐτὸς ἀκονιτὶ ἐφειλκύσω τὸν Γέτην δυνάστην, καὶ ἦκει σοι ἐθελοντῆς ὁ πάλαι σεμνὸς καὶ ὑψηλογνώμων **191 [a]** ἰκέτης εἰς τὴν πόλιν τὴν βασιλίδα, οὗ τὸν πατέρα ὁ παμμεγέθης Κωνσταντῖνος εἰκόνι ἀπεμειλίσσετο τῇ νῦν ἔτι ἀνακειμένη πρὸς τῷ ὀπισθοδόμῳ τοῦ βουλευτηρίου. οὕτω δόξα ἀγαθὴ βασιλεῖ πολλῶν ἀσπίδων δυνατωτέρα

**190d- 191a: 190 [d]** “...Those whom we have not conquered by arms, we attract voluntarily through faith in you and, as the magnetic stone gently draws iron to itself, so you drew on the gethic chieftain without effort and he comes to the royal city as a willing suppliant to you, **191 [a]** he who was once proud and haughty of spirit, whose father Constantine won over with the statue which even now stands at the rear of the Senate House. Thus a good reputation is more powerful for a king than many shields” (Trans. Heather- Moncur 2001, 243-244 )

**C) Themistius, Oration 16 (January 383 AD):**

**1) 208 b-c:** γινώσκων ὅτι ὅσῳπερ ἂν μείζονα ἀδικήσωσι, τοσοῦτῳ μᾶλλον ἂν ἐγνώκασιν ἑαυτοῖς συνοισόμενον, ἔγνω βελτίονα εἶναι τὴν ἐπὶ τοῖς ἡμαρτημένοις συγγνώμην τῆς ἄχρι τῶν ἐσχάτων φιλονεικίας. καὶ ζητῶν ὅστις αὐτῷ πρὸς τὴν νίκην ταύτην διακονήσεται...[c] οὐκ ἐδεήθη χρόνου πρὸς εὔρεσιν τοῦ μάλιστα ἐπιτηδείου...πέμπει καθάπερ Ἀχιλλεὺς τὸν ἑταῖρον ἐπ' ἀμείνοσιν οἰωνοῖς

**2) 211 a-b:** πότερον οὖν βέλτιον νεκρῶν ἐμπλήσαι τὴν Θράκην ἢ γεωργῶν; καὶ τάφων ἀποδείξαι [b] μεστὴν ἢ ἀνθρώπων; καὶ βαδίζειν δι' ἀγρίας ἢ δι' εἰργασμένης; καὶ ἀριθμεῖν τοὺς πεφονευμένους ἢ τοὺς ἀροῦντας; καὶ μετοικίζειν, εἰ τύχοι, Φρύγας καὶ Βιθυνοὺς ἢ συνοικίζειν οὓς κεχειρώμεθα; ἀκούω παρὰ τῶν ἐκεῖθεν ἀφικνουμένων ὅτι μεταποιοῦσι τὸν σίδηρον ἐκ τῶν ξιφῶν καὶ τῶν θωράκων εἰς δικέλλας νῦν καὶ δρεπάνας,

**1) 208 b-c:** “(Theodosius) realized that forgiveness towards those who had done wrong was better than to fight it out to the bitter end. And seeking someone who would be of service to him in gaining this victory.... [c] he lost no time in finding the most suitable man (Saturninus)...(Theodosius) sends him out just as Achilles did his companion (Patroclus) but with better auspices” (Trans. Heather- Moncur 2001, 277)

**2) 211 a-b:** “Was it better to fill Thrace with corpses or with farmers? To make it full of tombs [b] or living men? To progress through a wilderness or a cultivated land? To count up the number of the slaughtered or those who will till the soil? To colonize it with Phrygians or Bithynians perhaps, or to live in harmony with those we have subdued? I hear from those who have returned from there that they are now turning the metal of their swords and breastplates into hoes and pruning hooks” (Trans. Heather- Moncur 2001,280 )

**D) Synesius, De regno, 22a- 26c (398 or 399 AD)**

“Arming peoples who have been raised under different laws...is like mixing in wolves with your sheep dogs....the Scythians must be excluded; all romans must be pressed into service. The military must be kin with them it defends, or it will prey upon them. The first step will be to ban these skin-wearing foreigners from the roman civic honors they insult....the foreign infection must be purged from the army, before it spreads. The Scythians are an effeminate race the Romans conquered of old. They have come to us as suppliants driven from their own land. Theodosius raised them up. But now they repay his compassion with insolence.. hordes of foreigners extort subsidies from us. We must recover our military strenght and drive them forth. The task will not be too hard for soldier- citizens led and inspired by their own king” (Summary from Cameron –Long 1993, 105-106)

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