

## Cicero's Senate: Realizing the Cognitive Dissonance in Cicero's Ideology Concerning the Republican Senate

The purpose of this research is to realize the cognitive dissonance in Cicero's political ideology concerning the Senate of the Roman Republic in a critique of *Cicero and the Senate*, by S.E. Smethurst. I will begin by explaining how Smethurst and others have presented Cicero's senatorial ideology. Then, I will compare their analyses with the texts and the context in which Cicero wrote these works. The argument is focused specifically in Cicero's *Second Philippic* and *De republica*, but will also include evidence from his other works. I take a unique approach to the topic by focusing on the Senate as the powerhouse of Cicero's political ideologies where as others use elements of these ideas to support arguments concerning his political ideology as a whole or in general character analysis of him.

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