

Urban Development in Umbria: How Roman Hegemony Eroded Etruscan Influence

The goal of this paper is to analyze the development of the urban space of Umbrian communities before and after the Roman conquest of the region. There has been considerable discussion regarding the impact that Roman expansion had on the organization, culture, and identity of the peoples the Romans conquered. However, only in the past twenty years has Umbria's relationship to Rome been explored in this discussion. The earliest in-depth examination of the development of Umbria noted the strong Etruscan influence on Umbrian urban and political models prior to the Roman conquest (Bradley 2000), and recent scholarship has explored the relationship between the people of Umbria and Rome in the context of the political and colonial occupation of Umbria by the Romans (Syme 2016). This paper aims to add to the body of Umbrian scholarship by applying methods for the analysis of urban public space outlined and exhibited in recent publications considering the development of other urban centers in the ancient mediterranean to pre and post Roman settlements in Umbria.

Methods for the analysis of urban development and public space in the ancient mediterranean have been the focus of several recent publications, at times with the explicit intent of outlining methodologies for the investigation of areas outside the immediate interest of the authors (Raja and Sindbaek 2018). By utilizing historical literatures in conjunction with archaeological evidence, scholars have produced in-depth analyses for developing civic spaces in the Greek and Roman world (Scott 2012). This analysis of the public urban space of Umbrian communities before and after the Roman occupation of the region uses the approaches outlined in recent publications on urban space in order to expand the body of developing Umbrian scholarship, specifically taking into consideration the development of Umbrian city-states in the

model of neighboring Etruria in the period prior to Roman conquest and the inevitable changes to urban development as a result of Roman interests.

Bibliography

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