

EL CAMINO HACIA LA LEYENDA: ALARICO Y EL SACO DE ROMA

THE CREATION OF A LEGEND: ALARIC AND THE SACKING OF ROME

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Resumen

En el siglo VI Casiodoro y Jordanes mudaron en triunfo el fracaso de la trayectoria final de Alarico, pese a lo cual, hoy, en modo alguno podemos representar su evolución vital con una línea ascendente. Tras un comienzo exitoso, la muerte de Teodosio el Grande les arrebató la estabilidad económica a él y a su variado grupo de guerreros y campesinos frustrados obligándoles a llevar una vida errática a la que Alarico no supo poner fin. No alcanzó a ver que su tropa sólo actuaba como actor secundario dentro de un escenario complejo en el que se interponían complicados intereses territoriales entre los imperios oriental y occidental que enmarañaban, aún más, los usurpadores imperiales quienes aprovecharon en su favor las rivalidades existentes entre caudillos bárbaros. Buscando la resolución de su propia crisis Alarico se encaminó a la poblada ciudad de Roma donde patricios y senadores, dando prueba de 'amor civicus', usaron sus haciendas para frenar su ira mientras esperaban que el Emperador buscara una solución política. Fue en vano. Alarico tuvo que asumir el revés y seguir buscando un lugar donde estabilizar a su 'gens'.

Palabras clave: Alarico, godos, Honorio, Senado romano.

Summary

In the sixth century AD, Cassiodorus and Jordanes portrayed King Alaric's greatest life failure as a success but, actually, we aren't able to prove that for his life trajectory. Following Theodosius the Great's death, he and his gens, among whom were warriors and frustrated peasants, lost their economic stability. As a result, Alaric began an erratic life that he was not able to escape from. He and his Goths were but secondary players in a scene in which there were major interests at odds: among others, the territorial disputes between the Eastern and Western Roman empires, the scarcity of population with freedom to be employed in the militia, and the competition between the German lords, which the imperial usurpers were taking advantage of. The patricians and senators of the populous Rome, giving proof of 'amor civicus', used their estates to curb the Goth's anger, while they waited for the emperor to find a political solution. It was in vain, and Alaric had to assume his failure and continue to seek the stability of his 'gens'.

Keywords: Alaric, Goths, Honorius, Roman senate.