

Military Presence and Civic Integration in *Hispania Ulterior*
from Sertorius to Caesar



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Edited by

David Espinosa Espinosa, Carlos Pereira,
Estela García Fernández and Ángel Morillo

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Cover: Panoramic view of Cerro de Santa Marina (Casas de Millán, Cáceres), location of the archaeological site of Cáceres Viejo de Santa Marina (© Carlos Pereira)

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Preface

David Espinosa Espinosa, Carlos Pereira,
Estela García Fernández and Ángel Morillo

Military Presence and Civic Integration in Hispania Ulterior from Sertorius to Caesar represents a significant contribution to the study of Roman presence in *Hispania* during the Republican period, from both a military and civic perspective. As reflected in the table of contents, it is the result of a determined research collaboration within two well-established disciplinary fields with a long academic tradition: Roman History and Roman Military Archaeology. The aim is to achieve an appropriate integration or interweaving of material evidence (archaeological, epigraphic, and numismatic) with the historical processes – social, economic, military, and legal – known through literary sources, with the goal of offering more comprehensive and nuanced interpretations of Roman presence in the Iberian Peninsula.

This work addresses a particularly tumultuous period in the history of *Hispania Ulterior*: the 1st century BC, marked by civil wars involving Sertorius and Caesar, and, more broadly, the conflicts between *populares* and *optimates*. Through its three thematic sections, the book proposes an interdisciplinary rereading of the interaction between Hispanian (and Italic) communities and the Roman army, highlighting the coexistence of violence, social transformation, and an early process of legal integration. From a contemporary perspective, this work engages with current research lines in Roman Military Archaeology and studies on civic integration. On the one hand, it expands the debate on the role of western provinces as sources of human and material resources for Roman Republican armies, a topic that has gained relevance in recent studies on the Roman war economy. On the other hand, it provides new perspectives on Romanisation processes, challenging traditional narratives focused exclusively on violence and imposition, as well as proposing an alternative path to civic integration through the founding of colonial typology cities with Latin rights.

Here, the 1st century BC is presented not only as a period of conflict but also as a moment of transformation in which both Hispanian and Italic communities settled in the Iberian Peninsula began integrating into Roman administrative and legal structures, adopting urbanistic, institutional, and commercial practices that would shape their evolution toward a fully integrated provincial model. Moreover, this work aligns with recent research emphasising the agency of local communities in the Romanisation processes, challenging simplistic views of unilateral domination. The integration of Hispanian elites into Roman social, political, and military structures and the adoption of Roman customs by local communities reflect a complex negotiation of identities and loyalties. These dynamics, far from being merely reactive, demonstrate how Hispanian and Italic communities played an active role in shaping their own future within the Roman imperial framework.

The structure of the book reflects the richness of its approaches. The first part ('Military conflict in *Hispania Ulterior*') focuses on the military conflicts that took place in *Hispania Ulterior*, spanning from the early stages of the Roman conquest to the civil war between the Caesarians and the Pompeians. These conflicts are analysed through diverse archaeological and historiographical perspectives. This section emphasises *Hispania* not only as a theatre of operations but also as an active participant in the conflicts, with local and Italic communities deeply involved, often supporting both sides. For example, the works included here examine how regional resources, such as gold, played a crucial role in financing these campaigns, alongside the strategic importance of enclaves like Cáceres el Viejo and *Ulia* during the campaigns of Metellus and Caesar against Sertorius and Pompey, respectively. These investigations not only provide context for the conflicts but also shed light on the occupation strategies, weaponry, and alliances forged between Hispanian communities and Roman elites.

The second part ('Military presence in *Hispania Ulterior*') focuses on the archaeological evidence of Roman military presence, especially in relation to the Sertorian War, including camps, weaponry finds, and coins. These elements reveal the strategies of territorial control and occupation employed by Rome and underscore the logistical importance of *Hispania* in sustaining war efforts. Particularly notable are the ceramic findings, such as local imitations of Roman tableware, which indicate a gradual cultural adaptation. The consideration of everyday contexts, i.e. the use of amphorae in military and civilian environments, enriches our understanding of the interactions between Roman soldiers and local communities, illustrating how military dynamics directly influenced daily life and local economies.

Finally, the third section ('Civic integration in *Hispania Ulterior*') explores the rhythms, modalities, and scenarios of civic integration, showing how the Roman army and Romano-Italic emigrants transformed the legal, social, and urban landscapes of *Hispania Ulterior*. A key role in these processes was played by the founding of colonial typology cities and the granting of Latin rights and Roman citizenship to the Hispanian and Italic communities settled in this part of the Iberian Peninsula. These processes were neither homogeneous nor free of tension but facilitated an evolution that led to greater integration and participation of local elites in Roman administrative structures. Caesar's and Augustus' programs of colonisation and municipalisation are illustrative examples of this phenomenon, which had lasting effects on the configuration of the Hispanian provinces during the Principate.

We hope that this initiative will not only inspire new projects and collaborations but also open pathways for deeper explorations of the complex dynamics of *Hispania* during the Republican period. The interdisciplinary approach of this work fosters diverse perspectives, promoting active scholarly exchange across various fields. This book aspires to become a key reference for future research, both methodologically and historiographically, by offering a robust framework for integrating archaeological, historical, epigraphic, and numismatic evidence. By examining the intricacies of the Roman conquest and the integration of the Iberian Peninsula, we seek to deepen understanding of the interactions and transformations between local and Romano-Italic communities during this pivotal moment in Roman history.

The book is based on the Hispano-Portuguese papers presented at an international scientific meeting held on April 23, 2024, at the Faculty of Geography and History of the Complutense University of Madrid, to which the contributions of other scholars have been added. The initiative originated within the research group 'Ciudades Romanas' (Complutense University. Ref. 930692) as a result of the collaboration established by some of its members, who, belonging to the fields of Ancient History and Archaeology, decided to jointly analyse the Roman military presence in *Hispania Ulterior* and the legal integration of the Hispanian and Italic communities during the 1st century BC. Furthermore, both the meeting and the book are part of the activities of the research projects 'Nuevas bases documentales para el estudio histórico de la Hispania romana de época republicana: ciudadanía romana y latinidad (90 a.C.-45 a.C.)' (Ref. PID2019-105940GB-100), the main funding entity for both, 'Acampamentos militares romanos no Océano Atlántico: estratéjias de conquista e controlo do território' (SFRH/BDP/108721/2015), and 'Paisaje y territorio militarizado en la Hispania romana: movilidad y transferencia cultural (siglos II a.C.-IV d.C.)' (HAR 2017-85929-P). Additionally, the meeting was financially supported by the Department of Prehistory, Ancient History, and Archaeology, and the book has benefited from the awarding of a grant (Ref. AE-969915) from the Vice-Rectorate for Research and Transfer of the Complutense University of Madrid. We express our gratitude to both.

David Espinosa Espinosa, Carlos Pereira, Estela García Fernández and

Ángel Morillo (Complutense University of Madrid, Spain)