

Improving the level of historical education: Rome and the Etruscans

Mejorando el nivel de educación histórica: Roma y los etruscos

Liudmila Mihajlovna Shmeleva

PhD in History, Associate Professor, Department of General history, Institute of international relations, Kazan Federal University. Kazan, Russia
ORCID ID 0000-0003-0785-4562

Received 09-08-20 **Revised** 10-10-20

Accepted 20-12-21 **On line** 03-17-21

*** Correspondence**

Email: procella@rambler.ru

Summary

The aim of this article is to dominate the educational aspects of historical level by examining the relationship between Rome and the Etruscan cities of Veii and Caere. Rome and Veii fought constant wars for control of the trade routes passing through the Tiber and its tributaries, which was necessary for the development of both states. In this struggle, Rome and Veii sought allies for themselves both among the Etruscans and among the Latins. Ultimately, Rome won over the Veii in 396 BC, thus the Roman tribes were founded on the land of the Veii, and the city fell into desolation. The relations with Caere developed in a different way, since there were no economic contradictions between the Romans and the Caerites. The relations were built on a peaceful basis, and Caere even helped the Romans during the Gallic invasion at the beginning of the 4th century BC: they received part of the population who fled from Rome, and their shrine, which was most important for the Romans. At the same time, Roman expansion at the end of the 5th - 4th centuries BC. Led to the war between Rome and Caere, after which the Etruscan city was subordinated to Rome. The results of such research, above all, highlight the need to increase the level of educational knowledge in the field of history

Keywords: Rome, Vei, Caere, Latium, Etruscan cities, historical educations

Resumen

El objetivo de este artículo es dominar los aspectos educativos de nivel histórico examinando la relación entre Roma y las ciudades etruscas de Veyes y Caere. Roma y Veyes libraron constantes guerras por el control de las rutas comerciales que pasaban por el Tíber y sus afluentes, lo cual era necesario para el desarrollo de ambos estados. En esta lucha, Roma y Veyes buscaron aliados tanto entre los etruscos como entre los latinos. Al final, Roma se ganó a los Veyes en el 396 a. C., por lo que las tribus romanas se fundaron en la tierra de los Veyes y la ciudad cayó en la desolación. Las relaciones con Caere se desarrollaron de manera diferente, ya que no hubo contradicciones económicas entre los romanos y los Caeritas. Las relaciones se construyeron sobre una base pacífica, y Caere incluso ayudó a los romanos durante la invasión gala a principios del siglo IV a.C.: recibieron a parte de la población que huía de Roma, y su santuario, que era el más importante para los romanos. Al mismo tiempo, la expansión romana a finales de los siglos V-IV a. C. condujo a la guerra entre Roma y Caere, tras la cual la ciudad etrusca quedó subordinada a Roma. Los resultados de dicha investigación, sobre todo, resaltan la necesidad de incrementar el nivel de conocimiento educativo en el campo de la historia.

Palabras clave: Roma, Vei, Caere, Lacio, ciudades etruscas, educaciones históricas

Introduction

The study of the relationship between states and diplomacy in ancient times is a very urgent problem, to which a large number of studies is devoted (Rung & Venidiktova, 2018; Rung et al., 2019; Rung & Sapogov, 2019). In this regard, the study of diplomacy and foreign policy of Rome during the early period of its history is of great interest (Alföldi, 1965; Chiabà, 2011; Cifani, 2013; Shmeleva et al., 2018; Shmeleva, 2017).

VIII - IV centuries BC - this is the time of small city-states domination in Italy, which were Rome and the Etruscan cities of Veii and Caere. Usually, a large Etruscan center subjugated the agricultural region and small towns. The latter were most often the ports for cities located at some distance from the sea, for example, the port of Pirgi in Cere. Moreover, the land areas of the Etruscan city-states were small. According to ancient tradition, 12 poleis were located within Etruria, between the Tiber and Arno rivers.

During this period Rome was also a small city-state and was constantly in need of land, therefore, with the nearest poleis, it had intense wars in order to seize their land holdings. Such tasks determined the military nature of relations between Rome and the Etruscan cities. In particular, for a long time, the wars were fought with the Etruscan city of Veii, located not far from Rome on the left bank of the Tiber. Therefore, the history of the relationship between Rome and the Etruscan poleis appears to be a series of military and other kinds of conflicts aimed at expanding the territory and obtaining trade and economic benefits. But there are also opposite examples - these are friendly relations, for example, Caere, with which Rome was connected by trade relations (Mommzen, 2001; Nemirovskiy, 1983). In this regard, it is interesting to see why the policy of Rome towards these Etruscan cities was so different, and to analyze the reasons of this.

Methods

The methodology of this article is based on the principles of historicism, that is, consideration of all events in their historical condition. The general principles of historiographic analysis were used: definition of research problems, and the analysis of the theoretical and methodological positions of the authors.

To accomplish the assigned tasks, a complex of various methods was used that complement each other:

- a comparative historical method that allows us to consider the foreign policy of Rome in relation to the Etruscan cities in comparison;
- a historical-genetic method that allows us to consider the choice of the direction of Roman policy in relation to the Etruscan cities of Caere and Veii.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Rome relationship with the Etruscan city of Veii

The Etruscan city of Veii was located near the modern Isola Farnese (the Tiber) on a high tuff plateau, which was a natural fortress; besides, the city was surrounded by a wall (Nemirovskiy, 1962). We meet the description of the city at Dionysius of Halicarnassus (Dionysius of Halicarnassus, "The Roman Antiquities) and Plutarch (Plutarchus, 1969-1973). Both authors point to the city favorable location and wealth. The first clash between Rome and Veii took place at the very beginning of Roman history - during the reign of Romulus (Titus Livius, 1948). Livy also wrote that it was unsuccessful for the Veiians: they received a truce for a hundred years and lost a number of territories (Titus Livius, 1948). Dionysius of Halicarnassus clarifies that there were two clashes, and also names which lands were given to Rome after the conflict "to give the Romans the area adjacent to the Tiber, the so-called "Seven Pags", and leave the salt mines at the mouth of the river" (Dionysius of Halicarnassus, "The Roman Antiquities"). Thus, the Romans received the Septempagi area, as well as salt breweries at the mouth of the Tiber, where the Ostia colony was later founded, which allowed Rome to control the sale of salt and the trade route along the Tiber.

The next clash between Rome and Veii is associated with the annexation of Alba Longa to Rome and the uprising in Fidenae against Roman hegemony (Dionysius of Halicarnassus, "The Roman Antiquities"; Titus Livius, 1948). Rome wins again in this conflict. During the reign of the Roman king Ancus Marcius, the Romans also had to keep war with the Veii (Dionysius of Halicarnassus, "The Roman Antiquities"). The reason for the conflict was the increase of Rome influence in Latium, as well as the desire of the Veiians to return the salt industries. During the

reign of the Roman king Tarquinius Priscus, fearing a further strengthening of the city and control over trade routes, the Etruscan alliance of 12 cities, which included Veii, declared war on Rome. However, Tarquinius Priscus managed to win a series of victories over the Etruscan troops and return to Rome with rich trophies (Dionysius of Halicarnassus, "The Roman Antiquities"). After the death of Tarquinius Priscus Etruscan and Latin cities ceased to comply with the treaties, explaining this by the fact that they entered into treaties personally with the king, not with the entire Roman community. The new Roman king Servius Tullius had, as Dionysius of Halicarnassus reports, to keep a war with the Etruscans for twenty years, which ended with the victory of Rome. The new treaties were concluded on the following terms: "Tarquinius provides all other cities that remained faithful to the treaties concluded with them to manage their internal affairs and use their property simply and without any anger; and three cities, among them, which rebelled first, incited to start a war against the Romans. He punished Cerians, Tarquinians and Veiians by taking away their land, which he distributed among the Romans, who had recently received citizenship" (Dionysius of Halicarnassus, "The Roman Antiquities"). During the reign of the last Roman king Tarquinius Superbus, the relations with the Veii were peaceful. Moreover, in his building policy, the tsar was guided by Etruscan samples, and he ordered many decorations for the temples in Veii (Gavrilin, 2015). In 509 BC the Etruscan cities of Veii and Tarquinia contributed to the return of the Tarquinian dynasty to Rome (Dionysius of Halicarnassus, "The Roman Antiquities"), but were defeated (Dionysius of Halicarnassus, "The Roman Antiquities"). Livy reports that the king Porsen, who led the Etruscan troops in this matter, "achieved the return of the captured lands to the Veiians and demanded that hostages be given if the Romans wanted the troops to be withdrawn from the Janiculum. The peace was concluded on such conditions" (Titus Livius, 1948).

In the V century BC, already during the period of the Republic, the relations between the two cities were not peaceful. Livy and Dionysius of Halicarnassus, constantly provide the information about the Veiiian raids on Roman lands and the Roman raids on Veii (Dionysius of Halicarnassus, "The Roman Antiquities). After the collision of 474 BC peace was concluded between Rome and Veii for 40 years (Dionysius of Halicarnassus, "The Roman Antiquities). Under the terms of the peace treaty, the Etruscans abandoned Fidenae, who controlled part of the trade route along the Tiber (Mommzen, 2001). After the expiry of the peace treaty, the parties resumed hostilities, but they were mostly border skirmishes (Dionysius of Halicarnassus, "The Roman Antiquities). The next clash with the Veiians occurred over Fidenae in 437-434 BC. However, this performance was not supported by other Etruscan cities (Titus Livius, 1948). The collision of 428 BC ended with the victory of the Romans and a truce was concluded with Veii for 20 years (Titus Livius, 1948). The key confrontation between Rome and Veii falls on 406 - 396 BC. The Romans found themselves Latin allies and Hernici, while Veii received small reinforcements only from Capen, Falerius and Tarquinius (Titus Livius, 1948). According to the message of Titus Livy, the hostilities boiled down to the siege of Veii by the Romans, as well as to small clashes between the Romans and the Etruscans. In 396 BC. the Romans took the city by storm (Titus Livius, 1948). The captive Veiians were sold into slavery (Titus Livius, 1948), the land went to Rome, but the city itself was not destroyed immediately, as was mentioned by Titus Livy (Titus Livius, 1948).

In 386 BC, when the Romans managed to capture part of Etruria, four new tribes were established on the occupied lands and Roman citizens settled (Nemirovskiy, 1962). Thus, the Veiiian territory was incorporated into the Roman state.

Rome relationship with the Etruscan city of Caere

The relations with the Etruscan city of Caere developed somewhat differently. Caere was located 7 km from the sea, occupying an elevation convenient for protection and occupied an area of about

150 hectares. Its population was about 25 thousand people (Nemirovskiy & Harsekin, 1969). The port of Caere was Pyrgi, located 13 km from it (Nemirovskiy, 1962).

Caere was undoubtedly the part of the Etruscan twelve grades. Caere was a trade and craft policy (Nemirovskiy, 1962). There were the deposits of copper ore on its lands. Archaeologists came to the conclusion that in the VIII century BC Caere was not richer in bronze products than other Etruscan cities. But in the middle of the 7th century BC only Tarquinia can compete with Caere in the quantity and quality of bronze items.

The abundance of metal contributed to the establishment of links between Caere and the Eastern Mediterranean. This is evidenced by numerous finds of Greek items in burials. Ceramics were delivered from Corinth to Caere, and gold and silver vessels from Syria and Cyprus. The links with the Eastern Mediterranean are also evidenced by the reports that Caere had its treasury at the temple of Apollo in Delphi (Nemirovskiy, 1962).

Dionysius reports that Tarquinius, after the war with Veii, led an army against Caere. "From there, a huge army set out to fight for their land, but having destroyed many enemies, and even more of their own, they fled back to the city." The Romans began to plunder the lands of the Cerians and took away the rich booty (Dionysius of Halicarnassus). Livy, talking about the war with the Volsk and the capture of their city of Artena in 405 BC, writes that "some believe that Artena belonged not to the Volsk, but to the Veiians. This mistake stems from the fact that there was a city with the same name between Caere and Veii, and it was destroyed by the Roman kings, and it also belonged to the Cerians, not the Veiians" (Titus Livius, 1948). It is possible that this could have happened under Tarquinia, since there are no more reports of a war with Caere during the royal period.

During the Gallic invasion, Caere received the inhabitants who fled from Rome. So Livy reports that the priests and vestals fled with the shrines of the Romans to Caere (Titus Livius, 1948). After the expulsion of the Gauls from Caere, a "state treaty of hospitality" was concluded (Titus Livius, 1948).

At the same time, T. Mommsen writes that after the invasion of the Celts, the Romans undertook the conquest of Etruria. Around 358 BC Tarquinia, Caere and Falerias tried to resist Roman rule. "The city of Caere, as the closest to the Roman territory, paid the most for this attempt: according to the peace treaty (351 BC), it ceded half of its territory to Rome, and passed from the Etruscan union to the position dependent on Rome with the remaining stripped-down territory, in which some separate Latin communities were already located. However, it seemed unwise to grant to this remote and alien community the same communal autonomy as was given to the communities under the control of Latium; therefore, the Cerite community was given the rights of Roman citizenship without active and without passive participation in the elections taking place in Rome; moreover, it was deprived of self-government, so that not local, but Roman officials were in charge of the administration of justice and the census, and even the local administration was in the hands of the deputy (praefectus) of the Roman praetor; for the first time such a form of dependence takes place here, under which the state (which was independent until that time) turns into a community, although it continues to exist legally, but is deprived of the opportunity to do anything at its own discretion" (Mommzen, (2001).

The residents received the rights of Roman citizenship without participation in the comitia. As an ally to Rome, the city of Caere was supposed to send military contingents to help the Roman army. Self-government was preserved in the inner life, that is, the position of Caere was likened to Tuskul. A.I. Nemirovsky writes that "According to the peace treaty of 351 BC Caere ceded to Rome half of its land and fell into dependence" (Nemirovskiy, 1962). At the same time, he believes that in the IV-I centuries BC Caere was an ally of Rome (Nemirovskiy, 1983), and in the IV century BC it was an instrument of the Roman naval policy (Nemirovskiy, 1983). Livy has instructions for this, so he reports that Roman youths were brought up in Caere at the end of the 4th century BC (Titus Livius, 1948), and in 301 BC the Cerians fought in the Roman army (Titus

Livius, 1948). At the same time, Livy has no reports of the peace treaty terms concluded between Rome and Caere in 353 BC.

Summary

The relationship between Rome and Veii and Caere is very indicative. Over the course of several centuries, various forms of diplomacy have been tried, united by one goal - to promote the growth and strengthen the influence of the Roman polis. Clashes with Veii over the control of trade routes ultimately led to the conquest of the city and the founding of a Roman tribe in its place. By a decree of the Senate, it was forbidden to settle in the urban area of Veii. At the same time, the Romans traded in Caere, since their interest did not intersect in 7th - early 4th centuries. Cerites even took the shrine of Rome during the Gallic invasion. As we can see, the policy of Rome in relation to the Etruscan cities was based on economic interests and the possibility of new land capturing.

Conclusion

Ultimately, when The Roman state became stronger and began to pursue an active policy of conquest in Italy by the IV century BC, the relations between Rome and the Etruscans were reduced to the usual conquest. At the beginning of the IV century BC Rome subdued Veii, and in the middle of the same century it conquered Caere. A direct consequence of this was the establishment of the Roman polis in the region and the disappearance of the Etruscan civilization.

Acknowledgements

The work is performed according to the Russian Government Program of Competitive Growth of Kazan Federal University.

References

- Alföldi, A. (1965). Early Rome and Latins, Michigan.
- Chiabà, M. (2011). Roma e le priscae Latinae coloniae: ricerche sulla colonizzazione del Lazio dalla costituzione della repubblica alla guerra latina, Trieste.
- Cifani, G. (2013). War and Peace, Boundaries and Frontiers: Approaching the geo-political landscapes of archaic Tyrrhenian Italy. *Frontiers of European Iron Age*. Cambridge, 1-14.
- Dionysius of Halicarnassus, "The Roman Antiquities"/ With an English translation by E. Cary on the basis of the version of E. Spelman. Vol. I-VII. Cambridge-London, 1981-1986.
- Gavrilin, K.N. (2015). Iskusstvo rannego Rima I Yuzhnoy Etrurii epokhi rastsveta (VI – V vv. do n.e.) po materialam koroplastiki, Moscow.
- Mommzen, T. (2001). Istoriya Rima, T.1. Kn. 1, Moskva.
- Nemirovskiy, A.I. (1962). Istoria rannego Rima i Inalii, Voronezh.
- Nemirovskiy, A.I. (1983). Etruski ot mifa k istorii, Moskva.
- Nemirovskiy, A.I., & Harsekin, A.I. (1969). Etruski, Voronezh.
- Plutarchus, (1969-1973). Vitae parallelae. Recogn. C.Lindskog et K.Ziegler. Vol. 1-3, Lipsiae,.
- Rung, E.V., Sapogov, A.S. (2019). Persian Interventions. The Achaemenid Empire, Athens, and Sparta, 450-386 BCE. *Vestnik Drevnei Istorii-journal of Ancient History*, 79(1-3), 200–208.
- Rung, E.V., Venidiktova, E.A., Vostrikov, I.V. (2019). The gold diplomacy in Greco-Persian relations", *Academic Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies, Opcion*, 35(23), 316-329.
- Rung, E.V., Venidiktova, E.A. (2018). Diplomacy of Classical Greece and the Inscriptions. *Revista San Gregorio*, 23, 68-74.
- Shmeleva, L.M. (2017). Lucus Ferentinae kak mesto kul'ta i sobraniy Latinskogo souza. Problemy istorii, filologii I kul'tury, 3, 54-67.

- Shmeleva, L.M., Utkina, K.A., Shmelev, D.V. (2018). Diplomatic Activities of Rome in the VIII–III Centuries BC According to Data of the Juridical Tradition”, *Journal of History Culture and Art Research*, 7(4), 8-15.
- Titus Livius, (1948). *Titi Livi Ab Urbe condita* / Rec R.S. Conway et C.F. Walters. Tomi I-II. Oxonii.