

Khalapsis O. V. Religious aspects of political and legal rules of the Roman republic. Purpose of the article is to reconstruct the political and legal norms of the Roman Republic by appealing to the relevant theological and ideological constructs. The author argues that Roman civilization project envisaged the sanctity of the community as a whole and its right to expansion. The sanctity of the community was realized in the co-decision making that was evidenced by the auspices, and the expansion was regarded as equally sacred by the Romans to control the fate of other nations. The concept of “Iovem imperium” originated around the end of the Punic Wars. The destruction of Carthage was a religious act, important not so much for practical, but for theological reasons (the elimination of the factor that hindered the approved by Jupiter Pax Romana). If earlier the Romans preferred to control other peoples, then after that they embarked on the path of direct conquest.

The destruction of Carthage had important internal political implications, both reflected in the gradual loss of ancient virtues by the Romans and in the strengthening of the power of local administrations. In addition, a considerable number of Roman citizens ceased to participate in the discussion and adoption of laws, and therefore the idea of metaphysical unity of the community was questioned.

The Iovem imperium construct can explain both the phenomenon of Roman self-government and “sacred right” of the Roman community to rule the world. Pax Romana was conceived as an expression of Roman power (imperium), the borders of the Roman Republic were perceived as the borders of the civilized world. Forms of government were subordinated to the general concept of the Roman idea, and when for its implementation in the new historical conditions required concentration of the supreme power in one hand, the Romans readily agreed to it, seeing in the world empire higher incarnation of the republic as a common cause of its citizens.

Keywords: *auspices, imperium, Pax Romana, Iovem imperium, sacred community, Roman civilization, pomerium.*