Oleksiy V. Khalapsis. Diocletian and the Third Republic. In 212 AD, Emperor Caracalla issued an edict granting Roman citizenship to the entire free population of the Roman Empire. The non-indigenous the Romans edict opened the way to the army, which allowed an increase in number of legions, but made them less loyal. All this contributed to revision of Augustus' model and formation of a new political reality, which was called by historians the name "dominate", the first version of which was Diocletian's tetrarchy. For the tetrarchy system to work effectively, too many conditions were necessary, and the Romans were no longer ready for such a great responsibility. In addition, Diocletian's model, solving some problems, created others, causing confusion and starting the process of the gradual division of the empire into the Eastern and the Western parts. If the principate system can be called as "The Second Republic", then the system following it, under which "masters" began to govern free citizens, it would be logical to call "The Third Republic". The Emperor is one of the titles of the republican ruler of Rome, along with the titles "Augustus", "Caesar", "princeps senatus", "pontifex maximus", etc. The legal and factual significance of each of these titles has undergone evolution, but the Romans themselves would never have agreed that a monarchy had been established in their empire; they quite sincerely considered their state to be a republic. This republic was led by a person who has a whole set of temporary and lifelong titles, including the title of emperor, which complemented other the highest ranking magistrates. At the same time, there was a transition from representations of power as a civil (and, as a result, military and religious) to power as a military (and only then – civil and religious) function. If the princeps themselves could not have been military leaders, then for the dominus it became a necessity, the logical expression of which was the institution of tetrarchy.

Keywords: Diocletian, dominate, tetrarchy, emperor, republic, Roman civilization.