

The Imperial Religious Policy during the Reigns of Trajan and Hadrian
and the Religion of the Soldiers from Roman Dacia

Atalia Ștefănescu

- abstract -

The religious policy unfolded during the reign of the emperors Trajan and Hadrian emphasized the support of the traditional cults, promoted especially as images on currency issues. It is well known that for the emperor Trajan the religion mattered only if it influenced the political life. The reason for his politics was to increase the power of Rome, to develop his political power and to strengthen the national traditions. This is the reason why Vesta became national deity during his time and also why he was tolerant to the oriental cults.

Hadrian continued the Trajan's religious policy and considered his political power an emanation from Jupiter. He encouraged the same cults as his predecessor.

According to this policy, most of the inscriptions raised by soldiers in Dacia worshipped traditional gods of the state. The image outlined by the inscriptions and the votive images suggests a certain conformism to the state religion. It is also the expression of the romanisation process, partially developed by the Roman army.