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Sommario/riassunto

"The decision to dedicate an entire volume to the study of the political culture of the Roman Republic reflects what is currently the most comprehensive approach to the subject traditionally labelled as Roman Republican politics (for a definition of the concept of 'political culture' and its history in the field of Roman studies see Holkeskamp, ch. 1). This volume analyses the Roman political world through the wider lenses of 'Roman political culture', in full recognition that, alongside the working of the political and religious institutions and their related officers, a system of shared values, traditions, and communicative strategies played a fundamental role in the social and political life of Rome throughout the Republic. The subject has been at the centre of an intensely contested debate for centuries and Part 1 (supplemented by chapter 1) traces the modern history of this. Needless to say, the subject goes right back to contemporary discourse, beginning for us with Polybius, whose account perhaps already foreshadows some of the wider approaches now being advocated - and it is to the ancient accounts that Part 2 is dedicated. More recently, modern historians have broadly approached the study of the Republican political life of Rome following three main strands: first, the study of its legal system, its institutions, and rules and regulations; second, the investigation of the social interactions amongst the members of the elite (which, under the impetus of neo-Marxist approaches of the later 20th century, extended to a growing interest in their interactions with the wider Roman people and the latter's socio-economic demands); and finally, the analysis of the 'political grammar', as Meier (1980) called it, which put an emphasis on shared beliefs, values, myths, traditions, and symbolic communication of the political system. Each of these approaches has yielded important results, which, however, taken separately, provide a somewhat fragmented view of Roman political world"--
