

Michał Zgórzak

Historia i polityka w komentarzu Grzegorza z Arezzo do Farsalii Lukana

History and politics in the commentary by Gregory of Arezzo on Lucan's Pharsalia

SUMMARY

The paper describes the historiosophical and political concepts of Gregory of Arezzo – an eminent Italian humanist living at the turn of the 13th century – expressed in his commentary on Lucan's *Pharsalia*.

First the biography of Lucan that is *Gori de Aretio Vita Marci Annaei Lucani*, is presented and compared with the other biographies by Suetonius, Vacca and the author of a manuscript called *Vossianus II*. It is shown that according to Gregory of Arezzo Lucan was a defender of the republican system and an opponent of despotism in all forms.

Then the political opinions of Gregory of Arezzo are defined. It is emphasized that he criticized representatives of all Roman parties including Gracchi, Marius, Sulla, Catilina, Mark Antony, C. Julius Caesar, Cn. Pompey and Nero. A politician who was praised by him in the introduction to his commentary is Octavian Augustus – the founder of *Pax Romana*. However it is Marcus Porcius Cato who both for him as well as for Lucan was the only model of all virtues and the protector of all civil liberties.

In some aspects Gregory of Arezzo may be considered as a precursor of the ideas which were formulated in the works of Niccolo Machiavelli.

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