

**Roman expansionism in North Africa during the first century
-The policy of abundant food and water at the expense of Numidian
lands-**

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• **Abstract:**

This research aims to shed light on the economic aspects of the lem that the Romans established on the outskirts of the desert in the Numidia region, by studying the archaeological remains in the northern desert, especially the areas adjacent to the valleys. This research is important because it contributes to our understanding of the Roman Empire in North Africa.

The study found that the abundance of food and water had a mixed effect on Numidian lands. This led to an increase in agricultural production and an increase in population. On the other hand, this led to the displacement of the Numidians from their lands and a decline in their economic situation.

Keywords:

the lem, the outskirts of the desert, Numidia, the archaeological remains.

Introduction:

Roman expansion in North Africa began in the 3rd century BC and continued until the 5th century AD. This expansion was motivated by a number of factors, including economic, political, and military considerations. One of the most important aspects of Roman expansion in North Africa was the development of a policy of abundance of food and water. This policy was designed to ensure that the Roman Empire had a reliable source of food and water, and it had a significant impact on the Numidian lands. During the second and third centuries AD, and after the failure of local resistance, the Romans adopted various methods to perpetuate their occupation of Africa. In addition to military methods, they paid attention to settlement, which made the occupation a reality. To achieve the objectives of settlement, they distributed the lands usurped from their people to

mercenaries in the Roman army or soldiers. Those discharged from the army after completing their military service worked to exploit those lands by establishing multiple crops in areas of the Roman presence. This leads us to ask about the circumstances under which those lands were controlled? How were the roles played by the Numidian lemming in those areas integrated? What is the importance of practicing agricultural activity in those areas in perpetuating Romanization? What archaeological evidence shows this? To answer these questions, we tried to extrapolate the antiquities of the Limes in northern Numidian and relied on an analytical approach to the archaeological evidence in order to make an economic reading of the archaeological remains and highlight Roman agricultural activity and its importance in perpetuating the occupation and exploiting the land and people.

1- Roman occupation of Numidian lands

The Numidian lands were located in what is now Algeria and Tunisia. They were a region of diverse terrain, including mountains, plains, and deserts. The climate was generally dry, with hot summers and cold winters. The Numidians were a people of Berber descent who lived in a variety of communities, from small villages to large cities. They were skilled farmers and herders, and they had a rich culture and history.

After that, the Numidian lands were subjected to Roman occupation, and this occurred in several stages, beginning in the third century BC and ending in the first century.

Initially, Numidia was an independent kingdom, and its king Syphax was a strong ally of Rome. However, after the death of Syphax in 203 BC, a civil war broke out between his sons, Jugurtha and Adhirbaal. Rome intervened in the war and divided Numidia between Jugurtha and Adherbal.

Jugurtha was angered by this decision, and began attacking Roman territory. The war between Jugurtha and the Romans lasted for 10 years, ending with Jugurtha's defeat and execution in Rome in 104 BC.

After Jugurtha's defeat, Numidia became a Roman province. The Romans continued to occupy Numidia until the first century, when Emperor Caligula invaded Mauretania of Caesarea, which was located west of Numidia, and annexed it to Numidia.¹

There were several factors that led the Romans to occupy Numidia. One of these factors was the desire to control Numidia's natural resources, such as gold, silver, and salt. Another factor was the desire to protect the borders of the Roman Empire from external threats, such as barbarian tribes from the Sahara.

The Roman occupation of Numidia had a profound impact on the region. It led to major political, social and economic changes. On the political level, Numidia became a Roman province under Roman rule. On a social level, the Numidian population mixed with the Roman population, and Roman culture began to spread in the region. Economically, Numidia became an important source of food and raw materials for the Roman Empire.

¹ - Telford, Lynda : *Sulla: A Dictator Reconsidered*. Pen and Sword. [ISBN 9781473834507](https://www.penandsword.co.uk/9781473834507). 2014.

The Numidian population's resistance to Roman occupation was ongoing, and several revolts arose against Roman rule. The most famous of these revolts was the Tacfarinas Revolt, which broke out in 17 BC. It ended with Tacfarinas' defeat and execution in Rome in 24 .

Despite this resistance, the Romans continued to occupy Numidia until the fall of the Roman Empire in the 5th century.

2- The Roman Policy of Abundance of Food and Water:

The Roman policy of abundance of food and water was implemented in a number of ways. One way was through the construction of irrigation systems. The Romans built aqueducts, dams, and canals to bring water to agricultural land. They also developed new agricultural techniques, such as crop rotation and fertilization.

Another way that the Romans implemented their policy of abundance of food and water was through the acquisition of land. The Romans conquered the Numidian lands and took control of their agricultural land. They also encouraged Roman citizens to settle in the Numidian lands and to start farms.

2-1- Irrigation and agriculture in the Limes areas: ²

The Limes is considered an extremely complex institution due to its various components and diverse activities, which indicate the character of hegemony that characterized Roman policy through the establishment of the Limes lines for multiple purposes, as it is limited to the security and military defense aspects only; but has gone beyond that to include economic aspects, especially the agricultural field with land reclamation. Numidia and its exploitation, especially those located in the far south of the Eurasian borders and the outskirts of the Sahara; as it cannot be ruled out that the Roman incursion into the southern Numidian regions was linked to the availability of a water network, the main factor for exploiting the agricultural wealth generated by the fertile lands in those regions. This is what led to the growth of the settlement movement in the south, which made the Limes institution one of the most important mechanisms for perpetuating Roman hegemony over land and people.³

a- Irrigation works:

The Romans were not satisfied with settling and exploiting the Numidian hill lands, which had water and natural resources to carry out intensive agriculture, but their settlement movement went beyond that to include the southern regions on the edges and outskirts of the desert, according to the progress made by the Roman army in the field, in addition to the fact that the settlement movement formed One of the mechanisms for perpetuating comprehensive occupation, that is, controlling the land and people by imposing a fait accompli on the local population. With the increase in human density accompanying the army's advance towards the south, the need for water, its control and its exploitation

² - The lemme: The concept of the lemme was linked to the fortified defensive lines that the Romans were establishing on the borders of the areas under their direct influence. These lines serve as the dividing line between the Romans and the local population outside the scope of the Roman Empire. The Romans had begun to complete the lemmings in various regions of the Roman Empire since the period of the rule of Emperor Augustus, when the latter ordered the mobilization of some military divisions, especially the auxiliary divisions on the empire's borders in various areas. Provinces under the authority of Rome. Fortified camps were established, some of them using military roads established for the purpose of continuous surveillance along the defensive line.

³ - Harmand (L.), *L'occident romain*, Gualle, Espagne, Bretagne, Afrique du nord (31 av.J.C à 235 ap.J.C), éd. Payot, Paris, 1970, p.219 ; Frédoille (J.C.), *Dictionnaire de la civilisation romaine*, édit.2, Larousse, Paris, France, 1999, p.92

increased. Romanian water policy relied on two aspects: collection and distribution through transportation channels.

b- Water collection and storage:

The Romans relied on three mechanisms for collecting and storing water. The first mechanism was to build dams in natural gorges and straits over which valleys sloping towards the south, mostly penetrating the mountains of the Eurasian bloc. The water of these dams was transported through canals running along one of the banks of the valley. There is a connection with the estates, farms, and oases near them. Many examples of these dams connected to streams have been found, including traces of a dam on Wadi Al-Qasab (O. The rock at the bottom of the valley, which we mentioned previously.

As for the second mechanism that the Romans adopted in collecting water, it was represented by tanks built in areas overlooking gardens and farms. In most cases, the tanks were close to natural sources. A circular water tank was found in T' Kout ⁽⁴⁾

In addition to creating reservoirs and cisterns for agricultural and urban use, the Romans took advantage of some natural depressions and basins to collect water and use them as natural reservoirs, such as the basins of the Sabaa Maqti' area in Wadi al-Qantara near the village of Masbah al-Ghizlan and the Branis Dam, which supplied the area of Arm Shisha, the ruins of which indicate its wide spread. for olive cultivation, especially in the north ⁽⁵⁾

As for the third mechanism, which is digging wells, archaeological investigations have shown its heavy presence and spread in Roman Numidia and at distances from exploited lands. A very large number of these wells have been counted, especially in the outskirts of the desert. What is surprising is that the depth of some of them exceeds 21 meters and their width reaches Three meters, so how did those searching for groundwater bear all this depth, despite the decrease in the value of the well the deeper it was? On the other hand, we point out that these areas have always been a place of resort and agricultural exploitation for the Eurasian population, where they make the winter and summer journey, as after plowing their mountainous lands, they travel. To those desert areas in the fall to plow them. After the harvest, which usually takes place in April, they return to their mountainous lands to begin harvesting in the summer. We do not rule out that this custom was inherited from the Old Testament.⁽⁶⁾

c- Water transportation and distribution:

In distributing water, the Romans used an elaborate technique that consisted of a network of canals that can be classified into two types of canals. The first type was represented by transportation canals (Aqueducts), which were either raised on special bridges or penetrated underground if the condition of the earth's surface required that. The Romans excelled in creating these canals, characterized by their perfection, durability, and effectiveness. They

⁴ - Gsell (S.), Atlas Archéologique de l'Algérie, Tome. I, (Texte), éd. 2, Alger, 1997, F.25, N°.82, 83.

⁵ - Berbent (J.), Aquae Romanae, recherche d'hydraulique romaine dans l'est algérien service des antiquités de l'Algérie, Alger, 1962. p. 146

⁶ - Berbent (J.), op.cit., pp. 131-133.

were used to supply cities for urban consumption, and they were also used in the countryside to water gardens and orchards. It is noted that their sources were often far from areas of consumption, which required carrying out extremely large and elaborate works. ⁽⁷⁾

The sizes of these canals vary depending on the purpose for which they were built or the volume of water flow from the springs that constitute their source. In the Aures region, a water transport canal was found in Ain Chabor, near Khenchela, with a width of 1.20 m x 0.70 m, allowing it to transport significant quantities of water, which suggests its agricultural use⁽⁸⁾

The different sizes of canals indicate the abundance of their drainage levels and the amount of water they hold, which gives us an idea of the quantities of water that were used either in irrigating the land or for agricultural use, despite the fact that the canal was not necessarily always filled, as this is controlled by the state of its water sources, as it can It may decrease or increase from one season to another, and the relationship between the measurements of the width of the conveyor channels and the water level in them can be reviewed as follows:

Transport channels started from sources or dams and water barriers towards the distribution areas, and the transport channels often branched into secondary channels. When they cross the slopes of mountains or highlands, they run parallel and vertically or gather in one channel to be redistributed later. It was possible to observe it through aerial photography, which clearly shows the presence of prominent signs that distinguish it, represented by some fruitless trees growing at the water basin or along the distribution channels for varying distances. It is difficult to recognize them for non-specialists, and in general, aerial photography has prominently shown many examples of these channels, especially in the Numidian south.⁽⁹⁾

As for the second type of canals used by the Romans, they are the distribution and irrigation canals, which are densely located in the southern Aures region adjacent to the northeastern Algerian desert depression. This is attested by the large number of remains of antiquities related to the Roman agricultural irrigation network, and the reason is due to the fertility of... (Flood) soil washed away by torrents and valleys descending from the slopes of the Aures Mountains.⁽¹⁰⁾

This area contained many irrigation facilities, including a huge network of distribution and irrigation canals, perfectly completed and carefully distributed, which suggests that their construction was carried out by the bodies supervising those areas according to a plan issued by the governing authority of the country, and that Roman engineers had a prominent role in establishing these facilities. This is under the supervision of the Roman Army, which works to provide the conditions for exploiting these lands to strengthen the military role it plays in the field in implementation of the directives of the Roman Emperors.⁽¹¹⁾

We notice irrigation canals in the gorges crossed by the valleys, as dams and water barriers were often created in those gorges from which the distribution channels departed, spreading on both

⁷ - Guey (J. Note sur le limes Romain de Numidie et le Sahara au I^{er} siècle, M.A.H., N°1, vol.56, 1939, pp .178 – 248.

⁸ - Sheniti Muhammad Al-Bashir, Economic and Social Changes in Morocco During the Roman Occupation, National Book Foundation, Algeria, 4891, p. 111.

⁹ - Messarhi Jamal: Roman agriculture in the north-east of the Algerian Sahara - the effects of the Numidian limes as an example, Journal of Science and Humanity, Issue: 07, 2018, p. 694

¹⁰ - Ghanem Muhammad Al-Saghir, Essays on the Heritage of Biskra and the Desert Frontiers, Ammar Qarfi Press, Batna, undated. Pp.:73-74

¹¹ - Shaniti Muhammad Al-Bashir, op. cit., p. 115.

banks of the valley, which was shown by aerial photographs taken by the French military researcher J. Baradez in many Locations in southern Numidian.⁽¹²⁾

It also appears clear in the pictures taken of natural water reservoirs and their neighboring areas, especially those located in the east and southeast of Algeria, especially since these reservoirs and barriers are often erected at the exits of valleys, so the distribution channels along the streams of those valleys become clear.⁽¹³⁾

It is clear that these The canals play the role of distributing water to the neighboring fields and orchards on the banks of the valleys. They were completed in the form of lines of different dimensions and are shown in aerial photographs with the utmost precision, perfection and density.⁽¹⁴⁾

Researcher J.Berbent believes that the density of this distribution network had a significant impact on water seeping into the ground, then reappearing at varying distances in the form of springs, wells, or small basins that were often used by farmers again. ⁽¹⁵⁾

Thus, it can be said that the water control network established by the Romans enabled the exploitation of desert and semi-desert lands in the Numidian south. However, this is considered one of the factors of the Roman presence and its stability at the expense of the indigenous people who were expelled from their lands towards the southwestern regions. ⁽¹⁶⁾

2-2- Agricultural activity:

There is no doubt that the Numidian agricultural wealth was one of the reasons and factors associated with the Roman occupation of North Africa, because Rome used to satisfy its needs with the agricultural production of the Numidian Kingdom during the periods of alliance between the two countries without difficulty. But those periods of alliance were not stable and permanent, which justified the necessity of abolishing the entire Numidian entity. This was what was done by Emperor Julius Caesar in the year 46 BC. Thus, the Romans had extended their control over those riches that had tempted them since ancient times, and were destroyed for them. An entire civilization (Carthage) in the year 146 BC. It is no surprise then that Caesar said during the celebrations of the victory he achieved in Africa over his Bummian opponents and their ally, Juba I, and his occupation of the Numidian queen, "I have guaranteed for Rome a land that can supply us with a quantity amounting to (480,000) quintals of wheat." On this basis came the interest of the Romans in the agricultural field in ancient Morocco in general, and the material archaeological remains that were found in the desert frontier region and in the Aures and its south have recorded for us the great spread of broad seasonal agriculture, especially the cultivation of wheat and barley due to the suitability of the soil and climate, as well as the interest of the Roman emperors in the necessity of ensuring Permanent supply for Rome and its armies. This is what made the Roman

¹² - Berbent (J.), op.cit. p. 122.

¹³ - Baradez (J.), Fossatum Africae (recherche aérienne sur l'organisation des confins sahariens à l'époque romaine), Paris, 1949, p.325.

¹⁴ - Berbent (J.), op.cit., p. 119; Baradez (J.), op.cit., p. 424.

¹⁵ - Berbent (J.), op.cit., p. 425.

¹⁶ - Ibid., p : 184.

authorities intervene to impose the agricultural policy that they liked according to their economic needs.⁽¹⁷⁾

Accordingly, the African plain lands included the Tunisian coast, the Medjerda Basin, and the upper Numidian plains, which extend from the northern highlands to the foothills of the northern Aures, and other plain regions in other African provinces that were full of farmers, slaves, and agricultural machinery for more production.⁽¹⁸⁾

The archaeological remains found in the Aures and the desert outskirts also showed the expansion of the Roman agricultural map to include other types of agriculture; especially olives, which marked the beginning of the expansion of tree agriculture, which, although it did not affect the areas allocated for wheat, it harmed the local population by expelling the Bedouins from the pastoral areas after their reclamation in particular. In the steppe regions.⁽¹⁹⁾

It is noteworthy that Roman agricultural policy was based on interest in wheat production during the first century. During the second century, it expanded to include fruit trees, led by olives, due to the increasing demand for olives in many regions of the Roman Empire, as oil production was directed to several uses, including the manufacture of soap and perfumes and its use as lighting oil. Natural factors contributed to the spread of olive cultivation.

In North Africa in general, olive trees do not need a high degree of soil fertility, nor are they able to withstand a temperature lower than (05) degrees Celsius in the winter, while they can withstand high temperatures. Rather, the oil yield of their fruits is greater in the hot regions. ⁽²⁰⁾ But the real development of this agriculture was known in the Roman period, because the colonial policy of the Roman emperors took the expansion of olive cultivation as a tool to Romanize the land and people by imposing a sedentary life on the Bedouin tribes that were traveling to and from the outskirts of the northern Sahara and the southern Euras, which led to a rise in density. Population and urban development in those areas after the influx of farmers there, in addition to the demand of the people to seek work in the emerging oil industry institutions in order to work as laborers in the olive fields and presses. ⁽²¹⁾

Archaeological remains show the great success achieved by the Romans in expanding their influence and pushing the borders of the Limes to the southern regions by touching, during the reign of the Severian Emperors, the edges of the northeastern desert in southern Numidia and the steppe regions in southern Mauritania of Caesarea. ⁽²²⁾

This is confirmed by the extensive spread of the remains of traces of olive presses. In the Numidian regions, we can point to their presence in Thaura and Madaure²³, and in the Namamsha region specifically in Tebessa and its surroundings.²⁴ And in the depths of the Aures, especially the banks of the valleys, including what was found in Wadi Qashtane (Guechtane) ⁽²⁵⁾ and in Wadi Al-

17- Messarhi Jamal: op.cit, p. 697

18 - Shaniti Muhammad Al-Bashir, op. cit., p. 90.

19 - Picard (G.Ch.), *La civilisation romaine* Paris, 1959. p. 71.

20 - Camps (H.F.), *L'olivier et l'huile dans l'Afrique romaine*, imprimerie officielle, Alger, 1953, p. 14.

21 -- Shaniti Muhammad Al-Bashir, op. cit., p. 97.

22 - Picard (G.Ch.), *Castellum Dimmidi*, Alger-Paris, 1947, pp .65- 66.

23 - Gsell (S.), *A.A.A.*, F.19, N°.1, 19, 70, 84, 94.

24 - Gsell (S.), *A.A.A.*, F.29, N°.70, 104, 146.

25 - Morizot (P.), *Les ruines romaines de l'oued Guechtane*, R.Afr., N° 89, 1948, pp .120-142

Arab (O.El Arab). There are also traces of olive presses in the areas adjacent to the valleys: Al-Qantara and Abdi. ⁽²⁶⁾

Thus gradually, the Numidian lands came under Roman authority, which employed all military and economic mechanisms to impose hegemony and extend influence to the furthest possible point at the expense of the indigenous population of the country, which forced those of them who refused to live in Rome to migrate outside the Limes areas, and imposed on those who remained within the borders to give up their identity. The nature of his life also integrates him into the Roman lifestyle, as he must work in agriculture, guarding, or in oil presses.⁽²⁷⁾

It can be concluded from the Roman agricultural policy generally practiced in the ancient Maghreb that it is linked to the imperial policy based on setting long-term goals that would prolong the Roman presence. In this context, the division of Numidian agricultural lands extracted from the tribes and their distribution to the aristocratic families who belong to the Senate under the tenure system, and soldiers discharged from the army, in addition to the lands taken in the name of the emperor and his family, falls within this context.⁽²⁸⁾

The nomadic tribes were no better off than the farming tribes. The movements of these herding tribes were harassing the Roman military and economic institutions within the borders of the Limes. This is what gradually prompted them to leave their lands and migrate towards the south, or integrate into Roman life as a lowly worker for the Roman settlers. Hence, the chapters of Roman policy with colonial dimensions were integrated by working to Romanize the land and population and transform the public face of the country in line with the strategy drawn up since the fall of Carthage in 146 BC. This policy led to the gradual progression of the Al-Lamis Foundation towards the south and the integration of its parts and contents to Romanize the largest possible amount of land and local population.

3- Results of the Roman expansion towards the south:

The Roman policy of abundance of food and water had a significant impact on the Numidian lands. The construction of irrigation systems and the development of new agricultural techniques led to an increase in agricultural production. This, in turn, led to an increase in the population of the Numidian lands.

The acquisition of land by the Romans also had a significant impact on the Numidian lands. The Numidians were forced to give up their land to the Romans, and they were often forced to become tenants on their own land. This led to a decline in the economic status of many Numidians.

Among the reasons for the revolution of the Mosylami leader Tacfarinas (17-24 AD) was the demand to restore the Numidian lands that had been seized by the Roman army as part of the Romans' race to occupy the largest possible amount of agricultural land. This apparently prompted the second emperor (Tiberius) to expand The Roman advance towards the south and the seizure of the lands of the Numidian tribes settled in the Aures and its east. Although the Mazalma and other

²⁶ - Camps (H.F.), op.cit., p . 29.

²⁷ - Ghanem Muhammad Al-Saghir, .), op.cit., p . 22.

²⁸ - Charles Andre Julien, History of North Africa, Arabized by Muhammad Mazali and Al-Bashir Ben Salama, Tunisian Publishing House, Tunisia, 1983. Pp. 217 - .

inhabitants of ancient Morocco had confronted the policy of the Roman emperors at the dawn of the empire with violent resistance and valiant steadfastness, the Romans had worked to preserve the land and perpetuate the occupation, through surveying and cantonment operations. Which was practiced by land surveyors (Agrimensores). They were carrying out their mission by following the occupying army after it had finished the process of usurping the land from its owners by force of arms. They were the first beneficiaries of those lands whose occupation was legalized by dividing them into equal pieces among retired soldiers after granting them lands on the borders with the same location. Strategic.⁽²⁹⁾

The emperors who followed Tiberius did not hesitate to continue his policy and encourage settlement by establishing settlements in northern and southern Numidia, especially Emperor Trajan, who worked to mobilize the people and deport them. In this context, he seized the lands of the Muzalama, forcing them to settle in poor lands, while the Italian settlers benefited from their lands. Or the ancient Roman army. The Numidia tribe was also dispersed between the north and east of the Euras, which resulted in a large portion of the population turning to working as wage laborers for the Roman settlers. (³⁰)

The establishment of settlements was accompanied by the expansion of cultivated areas in the Numidian land inland towards the south. The lands were reclaimed for afforestation while continuing to grow grains. This resulted in the evacuation of the Bedouins from their lands and their displacement towards the desert. The Romans, on the other hand, aimed to disperse the local population and isolate them from each other. To prevent possible contact and rapprochement, which might hinder the establishment of new settlements or harass the Roman military presence charged with protecting the Romanized lands within the Limes.⁽³¹⁾

Although the Romans sought to dismantle the social structure of the local population and expel them from their lands, which they had inherited from their fathers, they began to move from the mountains, the steppes, and the desert in search of pasture and water. However, according to J.Despois's belief, the Romans were unable to achieve their goals of During their policy, as the Lemis borders penetrated further into the south and harassed the local tribes, the role of the latter increased in penetrating the Roman valleys, robbing the settlers' shrines, and raiding the watchtowers and guard posts during their seasonal movements. (³²)

This is what created fears among the Romans for their strategic interests, so they worked to harass the population by targeting control of the roads and crossings leading from the hill to the desert, especially the exits of the valleys penetrating the Aures and its gorges, and this is demonstrated by the fortifications and traces of the roads established in these sites.⁽³³⁾

Conclusion:

The Roman policy of abundance of food and water had a mixed impact on the Numidian lands. On the one hand, it led to an increase in agricultural production and an increase in the population. On the other hand, it led to the displacement of the Numidians from their land and a decline in their economic status.

²⁹ - Ghanem Muhammad Al-Saghir, op.cit, p 52.

³⁰ - Charles André Julien, op. cit., p. 217 -218

³¹ - Despois (J.) : La bordure saharienne de l'Algérie orientale, R.Afr., 1942-43, pp. 197-219.

³² - Despois (J.): Op-cit, p 219.

³³- Salama (P.), Les voies romaines de l'Afrique du nord, Imprimerie officielle du gouvernement général de l'Algérie, Alger, 1951, p 38.

From the above, we can summarize a set of results that highlight the strategic importance of the North Sahara region during the Roman occupation of North Africa, including:

The Flavian emperors not only fortified the northern Aures, but also supported the northern defensive line with a second line during the second and third centuries AD, so that the north of the desert extended over the region adjacent to the Aures in order to confront the raids that the local Sahrawi population launched from time to time on the Roman occupation centers in the Aures.

The economic aspect of the Limes areas in the desert north emerged in that they formed barriers between productive and non-productive areas, because for Rome, everything outside the Limes was useless. Hence, the Romans focused their efforts in the southern Limes areas on constructing tremendous works in agriculture, land reclamation, and building canals to transport water. Storing it and then distributing it to increase production in order to supply Rome. This is what the Roman emperors have done since the time of Octavian.

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