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Roztovtzeff, The Social and Economic History of the Hellenistic World

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Présentation de la fiche

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Mourtzel.

Society and economy ~~of~~.

History of the Hellenistic world

I. ad/44
r 1305-6.

In those cities both old and new, which were under the direct control of Hellenistic kings, the bourgeoisie stood in direct relation with the central power, and enjoyed a intermediary between the king and his bureaucracy on the one hand and the inhabitants in general on the other. As holders of the administration offices, as members of the city councils, and in virtue of their influence in the popular assembly, they enjoyed long the responsibility for all the demands of the central power in respect of regular tribute, extraordinary fees, deliveries of troops, deliveries in kind of the army, ... maintenance of roads, defence connected with royal visits, and other like charges.

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Last but not the least, the rulers maintained

and wealth and the popular assemblies
of the several cities, though they had
little connexion with each other, ...
nevertheless taken all together formed a
kind of confederation remarkable for
government, which carried out important
administrative and judicial functions
in the state of the monarchy, which
consisted of the cities and their territories ...

It was local government, a government controlled
and closely watched by the central power
but exercising a decisive influence on many parts
of the life of a large and numerous part of
the population of a Hellenistic kingdom.

- Institut d'archéologie grecque de l'.C.

"Prohibited but ubiquitous, the bourgeoisie and with
it the city-state were inherited by their suc-
cessors, the Romans, who often treated them
with harshness for a time, finally became
reconciled with the cities and their dominant
middle class."