

THE INSTITUTE FOR ANACYCLOSIS

EXCERPT FROM  
ON THE REPUBLIC  
BY MARCUS TULLIUS CICERO

C. 54 B.C.

*Note: This text asserts that political evolution is subject to “periodical revolutions and circular courses” and tends to proceed according to a “regular curving path” which is consistent with Anacyclosis. Reference to the mixed constitution is also made. In the last passage, Cicero advocates an equitable harmony between the upper, middle, and lower classes of society, proving awareness of the significance of demographic equilibrium to the optimal configuration of political society. This is also consistent with The Institute’s beliefs which emphasize the supreme importance of the middle class to the general welfare of mankind. Unfortunately, On The Republic is missing several substantial portions.*

Book I. Chapter XXIX.

... and likewise some other form usually arises from those I have mentioned, and remarkable indeed are the periodical revolutions and circular courses followed by the constant changes and sequences in governmental forms. A wise man should be acquainted with these changes, but it calls for great citizens and for a man of almost divine powers to foresee them when they threaten, and, while holding the reins of government, to direct their courses and keep them under his control. Therefore I consider a fourth form of government the most commendable – that form which is a well-regulated mixture of the three which I mentioned at first.

Book II. Chapter XXV

... At this point begins that orbit of development with whose natural motion and circular course you must become acquainted from its beginning. For the foundation of that political wisdom which is the aim of our whole discourse is an understanding of the regular curving path through which governments travel, in order that, when you know what direction any commonwealth tends to take, you may be able to hold it back or take measures to meet the change.

...

Book II. Chapter XLII

... For just as in the music of harps and flutes or in the voices of singers a certain harmony of different tones must be preserved, the interruption or violation of which is intolerable to trained ears, and as this perfect agreement and harmony is produced by the proportionate blending of unlike tones, so also is a State made harmonious by agreement among dissimilar elements, brought about by a fair and reasonable blending together of the upper, middle, and lower classes, just as if they were musical tones.

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