

Justin Winzenburg

## Ephesians and Empire

### An Evaluation of the Epistle's Subversion of Roman Imperial Ideology

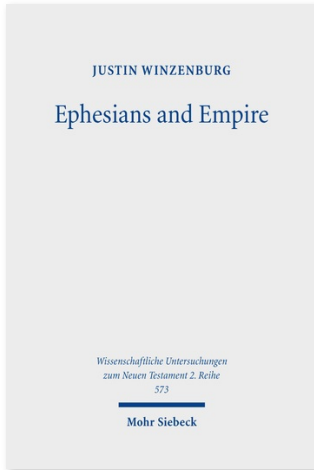
[Der Epheserbrief und das Imperium. Eine Bewertung der Subversion der römisch-kaiserlichen Ideologie im Epheserbrief.]

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While recent publications have explored the relationship between New Testament texts and early Roman imperial ideology, Ephesians has been underanalyzed in these conversations. In this study, Justin Winzenburg provides an original contribution to the field by assessing how matters of the disputed authorship, audience, and date of Ephesians have varied consequences for the imperial-critical status of the epistle. Previously underexplored elements of the Roman context of Ephesians, with a focus on *maiestas* [treason] charges, imperial cults, and Roman imperial eschatology are examined in light of the two major theories of the date of the epistle. The author concludes that, while there are limitations to an imperial-critical reading of the epistle, some of the epistle's speech acts can be understood as subversive of Roman imperial ideology.

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