

Abstract: Cassius Dio is often said to be most reliable when writing on the history of his own life-time, where he was able to follow Roman politics from the benches in the senate or as trusted member of different emperors administration. There is little reason to doubt that Dio saw a recorded things and situations to the best of his abilities or, for that matter, that most of these accounts come close to what he did see or believed he saw when observing Roman politics. But apart from what he saw first hand or heard from what he deemed reliable sources, how well-informed was Dio, actually, about the political life or about the political motives, strategies and the decisions made by the emperor or at the court? How reliable, or useful, are the political analysis that he offers of his own time? And, were they better than the ones he wrote about earlier periods as for instance, when he wrote the history of republican Rome or that of the early imperial Rome. What I'll suggest in this chapter is that Dio seems not to have been better informed about what happened in his own lifetime than he was about earlier periods and perhaps even more interestingly, the analysis he offers of his own time are often less detailed and surely more personally engaged, but also less balanced, than the ones he delivers of earlier periods.

Keywords: Cassius Dio, *Roman History*. Roman historiography, Republican Rome, The Severan age.