

**Abstract:** In his *De magistratibus* – a history of the magistracies of the Roman State from Romulus to Justinian – John Lydus devotes some chapters to the growth and decline of the consulship. According to Lydus, after the tyranny of the Kings, the consular magistracy inaugurated a new era of political freedom. The consulship was an invention of Lucius Iunius Brutus, a man renowned for his knowledge and moderation (*sophrosyne*). Lydus praises the *sophrosyne* of Brutus, which allowed him to establish the consulship as the ‘mother of the Roman freedom’. The decline of the magistracy was caused by the arrogance and the evil nature of Julius Caesar: the decadence continued till the despotic government of Diocletian. However, according to his concept of decline and restoration, Lydus hopes that Justinian can restore the consulship and consider it as a political model for the reform of his *basileia*.

**Keywords:** John Lydus, Consulship, Lucius Iunius Brutus, *Sophrosyne*, Justinian.