

# Moral Revision in Latin Ethnography: A Reassessment of Tacitus' Germania and Caesar's Bellum Gallicum.

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## Moral Revision in Latin Ethnography: A Reassessment of Tacitus' Germania and Caesar's Bellum Gallicum

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### Degree

Master of Arts

### Program

Classics

### Supervisor

Dr. Kelly Olson

### Abstract

#### ABSTRACT

The preponderance of interest in the Roman frontier and its cultures has manifested itself in all aspects of the discipline of material archaeology to the social historian's inquiry into the antiquity. Consequently, scholarship pertaining to the ethnography of the frontier has been made intrinsically more impor

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outdated modes of inquiry and overly positivistic interpretatic study and, in some cases, stripped texts of their underlying sig  
*Germania* is one such text.

Within the ethnographic tradition, the *Germania* exists as a se singularities: as a monograph rather than an excursus; as a wo statement of intent; as an ethnographic work which adheres to nor romantic exaggeration; and as text with an inordinate pre moralism. As such, how do we rationalize the text in a manne these discrepancies? I believe Tacitus invites the reader to exa deliberate admonishment of Roman moral turpitude through Germanic contrasts.

Although the reading of the *Germania* as a morally guided or the ire of a century's worth of Tacitean commentators, the de anachronism, inconsistencies with the Tacitean corpus itself, a the German people demands a critical reassessment. Further of the text may reveal rather than an instance of literary anon moralistic intent behind other seemingly 'innovative' ethnogra

Key Words: Tacitus, ethnography, Latin historiography, Stoicis history, ancient Rome.

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