Institutions of Empire
Comparative Perspectives on Ancient Chinese and Mediterranean History

An International Conference of the Stanford Ancient Chinese and Mediterranean Empires
Comparative History Project

Sponsored by The Social Science History Institute – The Department of Classics –
The School of Humanities and Sciences – The Stanford Institute for International Studies

Organized by Walter Scheidel, Joe Manning and Mark Lewis

Conference Room, Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research
Landau Economics Building, 579 Serra Mall, Stanford University

Program

Friday, May 13, 2005
Session 1: 9.30-12.30
Walter Scheidel (Stanford University): Introduction
Governance and economic performance I
Peter Bang (University of Copenhagen): Universal empire, archaic consumption, and tributary extraction
Mark Lewis (Stanford University): Gift exchange and charity in ancient China and the Roman empire

Session 2: 2-5.30
Governance and economic performance II
Lai Ming Chiu (Chinese University of Hong Kong): Local elites in the Han period
Walter Scheidel (Stanford University): The monetary systems of the Han and Roman empires

Culture
David Schaberg (UCLA): The imperial audience and the births of literature

Saturday, May 14, 2005
Session 3: 9.30-1
Military institutions
Dingxin Zhao (University of Chicago): War and political development in Pre-Qin China
Robin Yates (McGill University): Chinese military
Nathan Rosenstein (Ohio State University): Roman military

Session 4: 2-5.30
Legal institutions
Karen Turner (College of the Holy Cross): Chinese law and empire
Luuk de Ligt (University of Leiden): Roman law and economy
Joe Manning (Stanford University): Codification and empire