



THE ANKARA FRIENDS OF ARIT

Atatürk Bulvarı 154/13 Çankaya - Ankara, Turkey

Tel: (312) 427-2222; Fax: (312) 427-4979;

E-mail: ankfarit@gmail.com

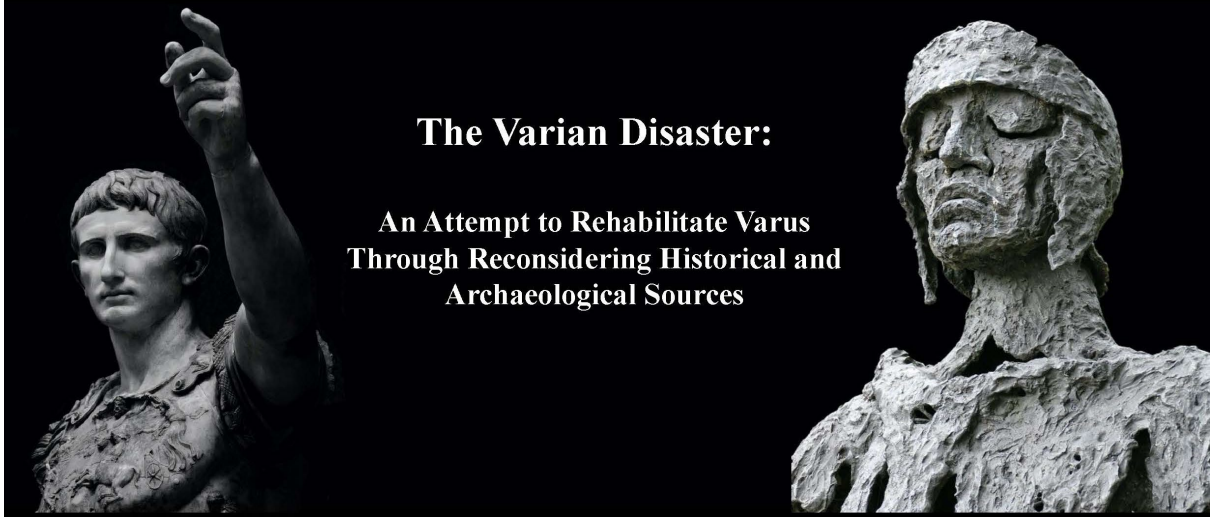
aritankara@gmail.com



ARIT LECTURE

by

Deniz Berk Tokbudak



**Monday, December 9, 2024, 7:00 pm (Turkish time)
in ARIT and online**

This study aims to ‘rehabilitate’ Publius Quinctilius Varus, perhaps the most infamous Roman imperial commander in written history, by re-considering ancient and modern sources. Under the command of Varus, three Roman legions, *auxiliary* troops, Varus, and his staff were almost annihilated by a German assault at Teutoburg Forest in 9 AD. Considered one of the greatest defeats for the Romans, this is recorded in history as the *Varian Disaster*. Ancient sources mostly blame Varus for this definitive defeat. However, ancient sources fail to explain the dynamics and reasons for this disgraceful defeat of the Roman army. Modern sources generally follow the ancient tradition and continue to criticize Varus for his incompetency, corruption, and mistreatment of the population in Germany. They claim that his disturbing and careless acts prepared the grounds for an ambush by the Germanic tribes, and it ultimately caused calamity for the Roman army. Yet, Varus’ career before his appointment in Germany clearly indicates that he was a thriving commander and a capable diplomat. He climbed his career steps from the ground up, acting as a *consul*, and governing Africa and Syria before being appointed to Germany. Therefore, Varus was a solid choice for Germany. In contrast, this study will focus on the imperial policy adopted by Emperor Augustus as the fundamental cause of this military disaster.

This lecture is hybrid. Please register for online participation:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlUde-tqzgoE9OZ_mG_p_9JkYBi7gWi38Bs