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| **GRST 347 – Assignment 1** | Alex Stevenson - 30073617 |

**Source:** *Lactantius, De Mortibus Persecutorum, ed. and trans. J.L. Creed (Oxford: Oxford*

*University Press, 1984) pp. 11–13*

*On the Death of the Persecutors* is a historical account written by the Christian author Lactantius after the year 316 CE. He was motivated by his personal hatred of Diocletian's regime as he suffered under the Christian persecutions instated by the empire at this time. This hatred of the emperor is thinly veiled within the source, presenting an incredible amount of bias that readers must be aware of while interpreting his work. Lactantius' writing in this context can be transformed into a simple list of major changes that were applied to the emperor as part of Diocletian's regime. This list of events can be treated as a good starting point for understanding this period of the Roman Empire.

The first historical event that Lactantius refers to is the formation of the Tetrarchy.