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Title: The Evolution of the Image of the Tyrant Demagogue and it's Foundation in Reality
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Abstract of proposed paper for the 13th conference of the FIEC

The paper focuses on the concept of the seditious demagogue who exploits social divisions for the establishment of a tyrannical regime. The significance of the question whether this concept is based on historical facts derives from its influence on the development of the thesis that social tensions were among the leading causes of civil strife in ancient Greece. The traditional point of view is that the appearance of the notion of a demagogue tyrant was highly influenced by the theories of Plato and Aristotle, who were, in turn, strongly impressed by the manner in which Dionysius I. seized power. This interpretation will be challenged by revealing that the image of a notorious autocrat taking power as the leader of the masses was already present in Herodotus. To confirm this Herodotus' description of the fashion how Deiocus became an absolute ruler, his portrayal of Solon and the famous *Verfassungsdebatte* will be analyzed. In addition, it will be shown that Solon's elegies i.e. political thought had a far-reaching effect on Herodotus' idea of the demagogue tyrant.

Ivan Jordović