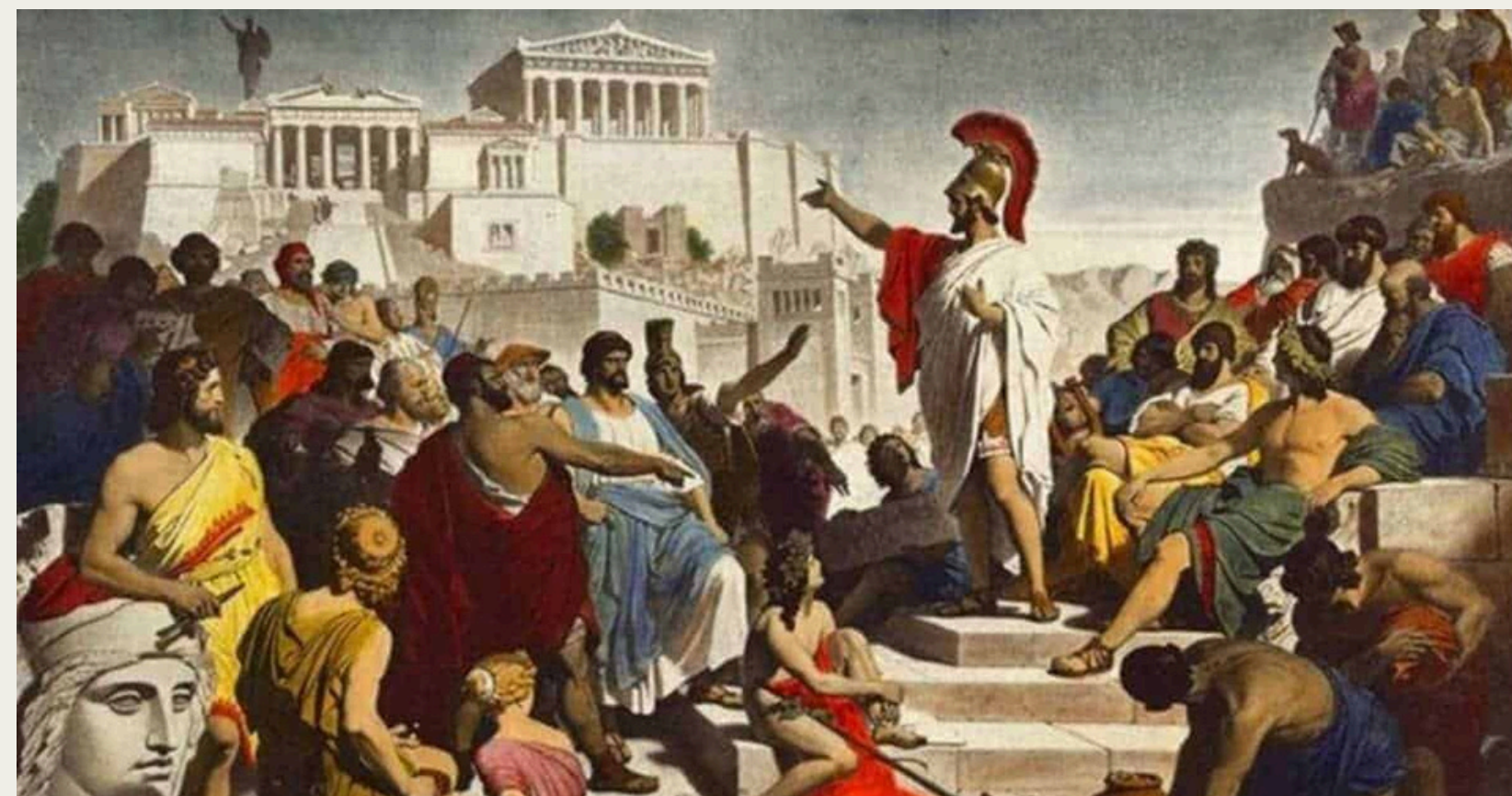


Erdogan, a Tyrant In Progress?

TYRANNY AND REVOLUTION IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

By Matthew Simpson



HPHI5909/HPHI6909

Nineteenth-century painting by Philipp Foltz depicting the Athenian politician Pericles delivering his famous funeral oration in front of the Assembly.

CLASSICAL INTERPTATIONS OF A TYRANT

Túrannos - Early Beginnings

Tyranny was not a constitutional or legal office. Tyrants possess the means to monopolise constitutional offices.

Tyranny is not a fixed state of being, but a steady gradual process of development.

Tyranny is inevitably accompanied by a progress of moral decay.

Plato and Tyranny

Worst form of government

Rule by a single individual, governs solely for personal benefits and disregards justice.

Tyranny one step away from Democracy

Aristotle and Tyranny

Perverted form of Monarchy

Looking out for number one

Tyranny - Oppression, mistrust, isolation and self interest.



‘The safest road to Hell is the gradual one’ - C.S. LEWIS, The Screwtape Letters

RECEP TAYYIP ERDOGAN

Early Beginnings

Raised in a conservative, authoritarian environment

2nd class citizen

Religious schooling

‘The rise of Tyranny follows partly from decisions taken under previous constitutions.’ - Edmund Stewart, The Tyrants Progress

‘The successive corruption of the soul takes place in youth’ - Platos, The Republic VIII

Rising to Power

A Tyrant the popular champion of the demos.

‘This is clear, then, that whenever a tyrant sprouts up, he is rooted in the role of popular representative and no other.’ - Socrates

Embarking on the road to perdition.

Making of Erdogan

The Mayor of Istanbul

Erdogan the Martyr - ‘The finished tyrant only comes out when he has been exiled and successfully returned.’ Plato

Premiership



“The people have always some champion whom they set over them and nurse into greatness. This and no other is the root from which a tyrant springs; when he first appears, he is a protector.” - Plato's "The Republic" (Book VIII)

A GRADUAL DECENT?



CONSOLIDATION OF POWER

Use of Fear as a weapon against the people

Erosion of Democratic Institutions

Use of Violence on the people - Gezi Park



CENTRALISING POWER

Transitions to a Presidential System - 2017

Manipulation of Religion in politics



SUPPRESSION OF DESCENT

Targeting opposition

State Controlled Media

Mass Purges



CORRUPTION

Corruption Scandal

ERGENEKON

“A Tyrant is merely a ruler who exceeds the bounds of office.” - Edmund Stewart

TECHNIQUES OF A TYRANT

Suppressing Potential Rivals

Instilling Fear

Sowing Division

Manipulating Wealth

Restricting Knowledge and Education

Distracting the Population

Controlling Public Life

Cultivating a Personal Image

**“The tyrant is a man who has desires that he cannot satisfy without doing violence to others.” -
Plato, The Republic**

A TYRANTS PROGRESS...

Emergence as a Protector	Consolidation of Power	Establishment of a Personal Regime	Suppression of Opposition	Perpetuation of Power
Tyrants often emerge during periods of political instability, economic hardship, or social unrest “The people have always some champion whom they set over them and nurse into greatness.” (The Republic, Book VIII)	The tyrant may accuse rivals of treason or corruption to justify their removal The leader leverages the trust and support of the masses to gain political authority, often through legal or quasi-legal means.	Existing checks and balances, such as independent courts, legislatures, or free media, are dismantled or brought under the tyrant's control. Patronage networks are used to secure the allegiance of key groups.	The tyrant employs violence, intimidation, and surveillance to suppress dissent and maintain control. Independent media and free speech are curtailed to prevent the spread of dissenting views	limits on power are altered or abolished to allow the tyrant to remain in office indefinitely. Manipulated of elections through fraud, intimidation, or suppression of opposition parties to ensure the tyrant's victory.

CONCLUSION

Totalitarian tyrant or trusted leader?

One mans Tyrant is another mans saviour

The Embodiment of Classical Tyrannical Understanding?

Pantomime Tyrant

Q AND A - ANY QUESTIONS?

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