

Diodotus Tryphon and the Late Seleukid State

This study aims to contextualize and integrate the rebellion and subsequent reign of Diodotus Tryphon with modern theories of Seleukid government and administration in Northern Syria. The career of Tryphon sprung forth from the chaos of Seleukid succession that characterized the Hellenistic empire during the second and first centuries BC. A general who championed the restoration of the young king, Antiochus VI, Tryphon proceeded to assassinate the boy and usurp the throne. This is a two-pronged study; First, the inner workings of the Seleukid state, largely relegated at this point to Northern Syria, will be examined. The complex dynamics of the Seleukid army and the state will be highlighted and stressed as armed forces became increasingly necessary to temporarily stabilize a chaotic state. Second, this study will shift away from the strategies employed by Tryphon when dealing with the Seleukid state itself, the cities of Northern Syria, and the various Seleukid satrapies towards the way he interacts with outside polities (largely Judaea, Ptolemaic Egypt, and Rome.) Attention shall also be given to the state of the East and its relation to the power struggles of Seleukid Syria. The foreign policy of the Late Seleukid state will be covered in detail to cement the role of the North Syrian administration in a wider Mediterranean context at a time when Seleukid power was waning.

Ultimately, by tracing the management of the Seleukid state during the career of Tryphon, the inner workings of the Late Seleukid Kingdom will become apparent as the state's infrastructure in Northern Syria slowly crumbles from external and internal pressures.

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