

**Herodotus** - Histories, Book 3,  
80 - 82

Context: • debate on Persian constitution

- deceit has led to stasis
- Written ~ 420s, would have been recited to Panhellenic audience
- making Persians Greek-like to make them more sympathetic?
- moralising tale about problems of democracy?

Is Darius' argument the best?

- other two viewpoints from negative arguments; give few pros for democracy/oligarchy
- Darius' argument more coherent/concise; argues monarchy is the default
- Too many negative assumptions? Or are his points relevant to problems Greeks have experienced in politics?
- Is tricky Darius resorts to entirely "Persian"?
  - ↳ plenty of examples of Greek deceit