Jake Nabel. “Remembering Intervention: Parthia in Rome's Civil Wars”

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In this paper, Nabel takes into consideration all cases of Parthian interference in the Roman internal conflicts, that is to say, all cases in which Parthian leadership granted the help requested by Roman leaders to fight their rivals; all cases in which Parthian offered protection or shelter to members of the Roman defeated faction or were deemed a suitable solution for escaping, surviving and continuing the fighting. In particular, the author is interested in how Roman contemporaries perceived these episodes. During the late Republic, Parthian intervention in Roman political struggles was not considered particularly negative. It was only after Augustus’ settlement with the Great King and the propagandistic depiction of Parthia as a barbarian state outside Rome that those same episodes of late Republican history began to be seen and described as hideous crimes, particularly nefarious actions within the tragedy of the civil wars. Later episodes taking place during the principality were seen as needed alliances with a foreign power, thus relegating, as it seems, the shameful reaction only to the episodes of the past.
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