

## The Virtues of Tiberius in Velleius' *Histories*

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### **Abstract**

This article examines in the first place how Velleius' *Histories* work as a hinge between the republican historiographical tradition and the new way of writing history under the rule of a princeps. I will argue that through the concept of virtue, especially shown in the emperor Tiberius, Velleius stresses the continuity of Roman history; *virtus* is the strand which works as the unifying link in the development of the succession from Republic to Empire. On the other hand, I will show that through the way in which Velleius writes the Tiberian narrative, the author assigns a special role to the virtues he describes, where political ideology and historical reality blend together.