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Creating an Empire of Informers Poppy Tushingham Creating an Empire of Informers Poppy Tushingham

throughout history many states have attempted to harness the attention of their populations for their own ends this study argues that the assyrian empire in the year 672 bc is such a case in 672 bc esarhaddon king of assyria imposed a succession covenant adê on his subjects the inhabitants of the assyrian empire this covenant required the empire s population to monitor one another and themselves for signs of disloyalty to the monarch and his chosen successor ashurbanipal this study examines the aims and outcomes desired and undesired of imposing this duty of vigilance across the assyrian empire to consider the presentation and implementation of this duty of vigilance the study draws largely on evidence supplied by the covenant and other royally commissioned texts to examine the outcomes of the covenant's enactment meanwhile it explores cuneiform sources such as letters to the crown private legal documents and literary compositions as well as the aramaic story of ahigar and the biblical book of deuteronomy by providing a sustained analysis of the real world implications and outcomes of the covenant this book sheds new light on a text that fundamentally altered the political makeup of the assyrian empire

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