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dictionary

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Language



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des·pot  (dēs pət)

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n.

1. A ruler with absolute power.
2. A person who wields power oppressively; a tyrant.
3.
 - a. A Byzantine emperor or prince.
 - b. An Eastern Orthodox bishop or patriarch.

[French *despote*, from Medieval Latin *despota*, from Greek *despotēs*, master; see **dem-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

des·pot ic (dĭ-spŏt ĭk) *adj.*

des·pot i·cal·ly *adv.*

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Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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