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978-0-521-89452-4 - Southeastern Europe in the Middle Ages, 500-1250

Florin Curta

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## Southeastern Europe in the Middle Ages, 500–1250

Southeastern Europe in the Middle Ages stood at a strategically important crossroads of trade and crusading routes and fell within the spheres of influence of both the Byzantine Orthodox Church and Latin Christendom. This comprehensive and authoritative survey draws on historical and archaeological sources to illuminate 750 years of the region's history, covering Romania, southern Ukraine, southern Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, Montenegro, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Albania, and Greece. Exploring the social, political, and economic changes that marked the transition from Late Antiquity to the early Middle Ages, the book addresses important themes such as the rise of medieval states, the conversion to Christianity, the monastic movement inspired by developments in Western Europe and in Byzantium, and the role of material culture (architecture, the arts, and objects of daily life) in the representation of power.

FLORIN CURTA is Associate Professor of Medieval History and Archaeology at the University of Florida. He is the author of *The Making of the Slavs: History and Archaeology of the Lower Danube Region, c. 500–700 AD* (Cambridge University Press, 2001).

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SOUTHEASTERN  
EUROPE IN THE  
MIDDLE AGES  
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University of Florida



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To Ana and Lucia

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The debts incurred over the four years during which this book has taken – and changed – shape are numerous. In what follows I can only acknowledge a few specific and particularly important contributions. At the onset of this project is the work of many scholars in Southeast European countries, both historians and archaeologists. For all my efforts at synthesis, this book would not exist without their remarkable accomplishments and dedication. It goes without saying that I alone am responsible for the use that has been made in this book of their ideas and representations of the past.

Thanks for financial support are due to the Medieval Institute at the University of Notre Dame for the Mellon fellowship that made possible a valuable year of final research and first drafts. The Hilandar Research Library at the Ohio State University kindly opened its doors and provided the space and time for a brief visit before the manuscript entered its final stage. Recognition is also due to my students at the University of Florida, who first raised in seminars and senior colloquia some of the questions that I have tried to elucidate in the following pages. Among friends and colleagues who were particularly supportive of this work, I want to acknowledge Piotr Górecki, Maria Todorova, Jonathan Shepard, Roman Kovalev, Paul Barford, Cvetelin Stepanov, Joachim Henning, Alexandru Madgearu, and Paul Stephenson.

My largest thanks go to my wife, Lucia, for helping me see this book to completion, and to my daughter, Ana, for her patience and resilience.



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DATES, AND WORDS

————— • —————

The transliteration of personal and place names follows a modified version of the Library of Congress system. This is especially true for Bulgarian words: “Velbāzhd” instead of “Velbuzhd” and “Carevec” instead of “Tsarevets.” As a consequence, and for the sake of uniformity, I have altered the standard transliteration for Ukrainian names, e.g., “Lenkyvcy” instead of “Lenkivtsi.” In general, the geographical terminology closely follows the language in use in any given area. Commonly accepted equivalents are excepted from this rule. For example, “Cenad,” “Durrës,” and “Zadar” are favored over “Csanád,” “Durazzo,” and “Zara,” but “Belgrade,” “Bucharest,” and “Corinth” are preferred to “Beograd,” “București,” and “Korinthos.” It is particularly difficult to be consistent about Greek forms, especially for names of emperors. In such cases, I have followed the established convention and used Constantine Porphyrogenitus and Andronicus, instead of Konstantine Porphyrogenetos and Andronikos. The same is true for several Slavic names. I have preferred Cyril to Kiril, John to Ivan, and Peter to Petar or Petăr. On the other hand, I strove to respect differing spellings, when anglicized versions have been long accepted as such. Thus the first Bulgarian emperor is Symeon, but his namesake, the first saint of Serbia, is Simeon.

Since all dates are from the medieval period, “AD” is not used unless necessary in the context. Where imprecise, years are given in the form “935/6” to indicate one year or the other, but as “1203 or 1208,” when the options are separated by a longer span.

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Certain terms are sometimes used in a technical sense, which is specific to the space and period considered in this book, not in their widely accepted meaning. Such is the case of the word “duke” to refer to a military commander or warlord. For example, the Croatian dukes of Bribir were local governors of that fortress and of the surrounding hinterland, but most importantly, local warlords. They should not be viewed as a part of a feudal hierarchy in the same sense as, for example, the Duke of Burgundy might be viewed. In much the same way, a Byzantine duke was a commander of troops, not a title referring to a position in the social and political hierarchy. The duke of Valona, for example, was a military governor appointed by the emperor. “Qagan” is the highest “imperial” title in medieval nomadic societies, while “khan” (qan) is a lesser title. I use “theme” in the sense of a (Byzantine) province, although the first attestation of the word in Byzantine sources seems to point to army units. “Roman” and “Byzantine” are used for distinct periods of time in the history of the Eastern Roman Empire, which has been arbitrarily divided by modern historians into an earlier and a later period, respectively, separated from each other by the reign of Emperor Heraclius (610–642).

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 CHRONOLOGY

- 499 Bulgar raid in the Balkans
- 502 Bulgar raid in Thrace and Illyricum
- 535 Emperor Justinian issued Novel 11 establishing the archbishopric of Iustiniana Prima; Gepid–Hunnic alliance for raids into the Balkan provinces of the Empire
- 536 Creation of the *quaestura exercitus* combining Balkan provinces with rich provinces in the Aegean and the eastern Mediterranean region
- 539 Bulgar raid devastated the northern and northeastern regions of the Balkans
- 545 First Slavene raid of the northern Balkans
- 547 Gepids defeated by the Lombard and Byzantine troops
- 551/2 Gepids defeated by the Lombards
- 558 Cutrigur invasion of the Balkans that reached the Long Walls near Constantinople; Avar envoys arrived in Constantinople
- 568 Annihilation of the Gepid kingdom; the beginning of the Avar conquest of the Carpathian Basin
- 578 Avars raided the Slavene settlements in Walachia
- 581–4 Four-year Slavene invasion of the Balkans
- 582 Avars conquered Sirmium
- 583 Migration of three groups of steppe people (Tarniakh, Kotzager, and Zabender) into the Avar qaganate

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- 586 Slavenes and other barbarians besieged Thessalonica; Roman troops defeated the Avars near Adrianople
- 592 Avars conquered a number of cities on the Black Sea coast and defeated the Roman troops in the hinterland of Constantinople
- 595 Roman troops crossed the Danube against the Avars
- 596 Roman troops under Priscus defeated an Avar army in the southern region of the qaganate and killed the qagan's four sons
- 599–600 Byzantine troops devastated the southern regions of the Avar qaganate
- 601 Avar general Apsich attacked the Roman troops in the Iron Gates sector of the Danube frontier
- 602 Avar general Apsich attacked the Antes in the Lower Danube region; revolt of the Roman troops on the Danube frontier that led to the demise of Maurice and the rise to power of Phocas
- 610 Slavene raid into Istria
- 615/6 Slavenes besieged Thessalonica
- 617/8 Avars besieged Thessalonica
- 623 Avars ambushed Emperor Heraclius near the Long Walls of Constantinople
- 623/4 Samo led the rebellion of the Wends against the Avars
- 626 Avars besieged Constantinople
- 630 Rise of Great Bulgaria under Kubrat
- 631/2 Civil war within the Avar qaganate
- c. 660 Khazars defeated the Bulgars; the collapse of Great Bulgaria
- c. 670 Asparukh led the Bulgar migration to Oglos north of the Danube
- 677 Rynchines, Sagudates, and Drugubites besieged Thessalonica
- 678 Avar envoys brought gifts to Constantinople; Byzantine campaign against the *Sklaviniai* of southern Macedonia
- 680 Sermesianoï under Kouber moved out of the Avar qaganate and into the environs of Thessalonica

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- 680/1 Bulgars under Asparukh defeated the Byzantine troops sent against them; the creation of the Bulgar polity in the Balkans
- 688/9 Byzantine troops defeated by Bulgars near Philippopolis; Justinian II settled the “Scythians” around the gorges of the river Struma
- 695 Leontius appointed first military governor of Hellas
- 705 Tervel, the ruler of the Bulgars, formed an alliance with Emperor Justinian II; Tervel proclaimed Caesar
- 716 Peace treaty between Byzantium and Bulgaria established the boundary in Thrace and regulated trade relations
- 723 St. Willibald stopped in Monemvasia en route to the Holy Land
- 725 Rebellion of the theme of Hellas against Emperor Leo III
- 740 Duke Boruth ruled over Carantania
- 745/6 Plague from Sicily spread to Monemvasia and the theme of Hellas; Duke Boruth died and his son, Cacatius, was recognized Prince of the Carantanians
- 752 Chietmar ruled over Carantania
- 755 Emperor Constantine V began fortifying towns in Thrace; Syrians and Armenians settled on the Byzantine frontier with Bulgaria
- 759 Constantine V campaigned in Macedonia; Byzantine attack on Bulgaria on both land and sea
- 761/2 Coup d'état in Bulgaria brought Telec to power
- 763 Byzantine invasion of Bulgaria; battle at Anchialos
- 764 Telec assassinated; Sivin sued for peace, but was overthrown; Paganos came in person before the emperor to sue for peace
- 765 Byzantine attack on Bulgaria; the Byzantine troops burned villages in northern Bulgaria and aristocratic courts on the river Ticha
- 766 Emperor Constantine V moved artisans from Hellas to Constantinople
- 769 Chietmar died; Carantanian rebellion against the Bavarians

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- 772 Bavarian intervention in Carantania brought Waltunc to power
- 774 Byzantine campaign mounted against Bulgaria; Telerig sued for peace, but invaded Macedonia and killed the Byzantine agents in Bulgaria; Istria occupied by Frankish troops
- 783 Byzantine troops under Staurakios campaigned successfully in Peloponnesus
- 784 Empress Irene toured Thrace as far west as Philippopolis; Beroe rebuilt and renamed Irenopolis
- 788 Carantania within the Frankish kingdom
- 799 Akameros, the *archon* of the Slavs of Velzetia, supported Emperor Constantine V's sons against Empress Irene
- c. 800 Creation of the theme of Macedonia
- c. 802 Krum came to power in Bulgaria
- 805 Slavs of Peloponnesus attacked Patras
- 809 Krum attacked Serdica
- 810 A Byzantine fleet reestablished the Byzantine control over Dalmatia and Venice
- 811 Byzantine campaign against Bulgaria; Emperor Nicephorus I killed in a battle in a pass across the Stara Planina range of mountains
- 813 Krum was offered peace; the Bulgars conquered Mesembria and attacked Constantinople; battle of Versinikia
- 814 Krum died; Dukum and Ditzevg ruled Bulgaria; the beginning of the persecution of Christians in Bulgaria
- 816 Byzantine attack on Mesembria
- 818 Envoys from the Timociani and from Borna, the "duke of Dalmatia and Liburnia", appeared at the court of Louis the Pious in Herstal
- 819 Liudewit attacked Borna
- 820 Frankish armies devastated Liudewit's territory
- 821 Liudewit fled from Sisak to the Serbs; Omurtag intervened in the civil war between Emperor Michael III and Thomas the Slav

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| xvi   | <i>Chronology</i>   |
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| 822   | Two Bulgar embassies to Emperor Louis the Pious demanded the rectification of the Bulgar–Frankish frontier  |
| 826/7 | Birth of Constantine–Cyril; Bulgar expedition against the Slavic clients of the Franks in the Lower Drava region  |
| 829   | A Bulgar fleet of boats attacked Frankish estates on the Drava River  |
| 831   | Omurtag died; Malamir became ruler of Bulgaria  |
| 832   | Bulgar envoys brought an offer of peace to Emperor Louis the Pious; Prince Enravotas killed at the order of Malamir because of his Christian beliefs                                |
| 836   | Malamir died; Persian became ruler of Bulgaria  |
| 836/7 | First Magyar raid in the Lower Danube region; Slavic rebellion against the Byzantine rule in the environs of Thessalonica   |
| 839   | A Venetian fleet destroyed the encampments of the pirates on the Neretva  |
| 842/3 | Constantine–Cyril arrived in Constantinople   |
| 846   | Godescalc of Orbais arrived at the court of Trpimir, the duke of the Croats   |
| 852   | First charter mention of Trpimir, the duke of the Croats; Persian died and Boris became ruler of Bulgaria   |
| 860   | Constantine–Cyril and Methodius sent as Byzantine envoys to the Khazar court in Itil; Mutimir of Serbia defeated the troops sent by Boris of Bulgaria and captured his son Vladimir |
| 863   | Constantine–Cyril and Methodius' mission to Moravia   |
| 864   | Byzantine troops landed at Mesembria; Boris accepted baptism with Emperor Michael III as his sponsor  |
| 865   | Arab pirates besieged Dubrovnik; Bulgar embassies to Rome and Louis the German; Bishop Formosus of Porto arrived in Bulgaria  |
| 865/6 | Rebellion of the Bulgar aristocrats against Boris's conversion to Christianity  |
| 867   | Formosus returned to Rome; Grimuald, the bishop of Bomarzo, arrived in Bulgaria   |

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- 869 Constantine–Cyril died in Rome; a papal embassy crossed Bulgaria on its way to Constantinople
- c. 870 Creation of the theme of Dalmatia; the first archbishop of Bulgaria appointed by the patriarch of Constantinople; the expulsion of Grimuald from Bulgaria
- 871 Construction of the Church of St. John the Baptist in Athens completed
- 873 Domagoj mentioned in a letter from Pope John VIII
- 873/4 Construction of the Church of the Holy Virgin at Skripou completed
- c. 875 Construction of the Great Basilica in Pliska completed
- 876 Domagoj died; Sedesclav became Duke of the Croats
- 876/7 Construction of the Church of St. Gregory the Theologian in Thebes completed
- 879 Branimir became Duke of the Croats
- 880 St. Elias the Younger arrived in Sparta; birth of St. John of Rila
- 881/2 On his way to Constantinople from Moravia, St. Methodius met a “king of the Hungarians”
- 885 The expulsion of Methodius’ disciples from Moravia following his death; Clement, Naum, and Angelarius arrived in Bulgaria; Prince Oleg of Kiev attacked the Tivercians on the Dniester River
- 888 St. Elias the Younger and his disciple Daniel came to Patras; Symeon returned to Bulgaria from Constantinople
- 889 Boris abdicated in favor of his son Vladimir
- 890 Muncimir became Duke of the Croats; Vladimir launched a new persecution of Christians in an attempt to restore paganism
- 892 King Arnulf of Carinthia asked Vladimir to stop the sales of salt to the Moravians
- 893 The council of Pliska declared Vladimir deposed in favor of his brother Symeon; Clement of Ohrid appointed Bishop of Velika; Naum became Bishop of Ohrid



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| 895    | Construction of the church in Uzdolje near Knin completed   |
| 896    | Battle of Bulgarophygon; beaten by the Pechenegs, the Magyars moved into the Carpathian Basin   |
| 897    | Peace established between Byzantium and Bulgaria  |
| c. 900 | Khrabr composed <i>On the Letters</i>   |
| 901    | Magyar raid into Carantania; Arab pirates sacked Demetrias  |
| 904    | Arab pirates sacked Thessalonica  |
| 905    | Naum, Bishop of Ohrid, died   |
| 913    | Symeon received a crown from Patriarch Nicholas of Constantinople   |
| 916    | St. Clement of Ochrid died  |
| 917    | The Pechenegs' attack on Bulgaria failed; Peter, son of Gojnik, attacked Symeon together with the Magyars; battle of Anchialos  |
| c. 920 | Tomislav became King of the "province of the Croats and of the Dalmatian regions"   |
| 921    | Milings and Ezerites rebelled against the Byzantine rule in Peloponnesus; Zacharias returned to Serbia with Bulgarian support   |
| 924    | Symeon met Emperor Romanus Lecapenus in Constantinople  |
| 925    | First synod of Split  |
| 927    | Papal legates arrived in Croatia to mediate a peace between Croats and Bulgarians; the archbishop of Bulgaria elevated to the status of patriarch; Symeon died; Peter became Emperor of the Bulgars |
| 928    | Second synod of Split   |
| 930/1  | Foundation of the Monastery of Rila   |
| 931    | Časlav became ruler of Serbia and began to bring back the Serbian refugees from neighboring countries   |
| c. 940 | Emperor Peter of Bulgaria wrote to Patriarch Theophylact of Constantinople asking for advice about the outbreak of heresy in Bulgaria   |

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- 941 Testament of St. John of Rila for his monastery
- 943 Magyar raid into Thrace
- 946 St. John of Rila died
- 948 Magyar chieftain Bulcsu baptized in Constantinople with Emperor Constantine VII Porphyrogenitus as sponsor
- 952 Duchy of Istria incorporated into Bavaria
- 953 First mention of the march of Carniola
- 958 Athanasios, the founder of the Great Lavra, arrived on Mount Athos
- 966 Bulgarian envoys arrived at Constantinople to collect the annual tribute; Emperor Nicephorus II attacked Bulgaria
- 968 Rus' troops of Prince Sviatoslav of Kiev blockaded Dristra and took Pereiaslavec
- 969 Peter died; Boris II became Emperor of the Bulgars
- c. 970 St. Nikon the Metanoiete arrived in Sparta; the decree of Emperor John Tzimiskes for the monastic communities on Mount Athos (Tragos)
- 971 Byzantine campaign against Prince Sviatoslav and his Rus' troops in Bulgaria
- 972 Emperor Otto I granted Isola to the Venetian doge Peter Candiano IV
- 973 Emperor Otto II donated land near Kranj to the archbishop of Freising
- 976 Emperor Otto II separated Carinthia from Bavaria, with Istria as a march under Carinthian rule; Queen Helena of Croatia died; the revolt of the Kometopouloi in Macedonia; Samuel sacked Larisa and removed the relics of St. Achilleus
- 980 First mention of a count of Ptuj
- 985 Samuel took Larisa
- 990 Patriarch of Bulgaria moved to Ohrid
- 997 Samuel proclaimed Emperor of the Bulgarians; Bulgarians attacked Ulcinj and devastated the entire Dalmatian coast from Duklja to Zadar; Samuel transferred the relics of St. Tryphon from Kotor to Ohrid

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- 1001 Emperor Basil II conquered Serdica and reoccupied Preslav, Pliska, and Pereiaslavec
- 1002 Byzantine troops took Vidin; Samuel attacked Adrianople
- 1003 Samuel defeated near Skopje
- 1004 Bled granted to the bishop of Brixen by Emperor Henry II
- 1009 Foundation of the bishopric of Alba Iulia
- 1014 Battle of Kleidion; Samuel died; Gabriel Radoslav proclaimed emperor as Romanus Symeon
- 1015 Romanus Symeon murdered by John Vladislav
- 1017 Byzantine embassy to the Pechenegs north of the Danube River
- 1018 John Vladislav died; the beginning of the Byzantine occupation of Bulgaria
- c. 1020 Deacon Maio completed the Beneventan manuscript of the Zagreb Psalter; mosaic decoration of the Church of St. Luke at Steiris completed
- 1023 Foundation of the Abbey of St. Benedict on the island of Lokrum
- 1027 Constantine Diogenes defeated the Pechenegs
- 1028 Frescoes of the Church of Panagia ton Chalkeon in Thessalonica completed
- 1030 St. Gerald became bishop of Cenad
- 1032 Pecheneg raid into the Balkans
- 1034 Piraeus sacked by Harald Hardrada
- 1036 Dobronas, the governor of Zadar and Split, traveled to Constantinople; Pecheneg raid into the Balkans that destroyed Dinogetia
- 1037 First Greek-speaking archbishop appointed in Ohrid
- 1039 Ljutovid mentioned as ruler of Zahumlje
- 1040 Revolt of Peter Delian in Belgrade; Bulgarians occupied Demetrias
- 1043 Stefan Vojislav, ruler of Duklja, died; revolt of George Maniakes in Dyrrachion

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- 1044 Foundation of the Abbey of St. Peter in Osor
- 1045 Kegen crossed the Danube with his Pechenegs
- 1046 Tyrach's Pechenegs invaded the Balkans
- 1048 Confraternity of the icon of the Holy Virgin in Thebes
- c. 1050 Construction of the St. Sophia Cathedral in Ohrid completed
- 1053 Michael proclaimed King of Duklja; Byzantine peace with the Pechenegs of the northern Balkans
- 1059 Hungarian and Pecheneg marauders defeated near Serdica
- 1060 Provincial council in Split
- 1064 Foundation of the Abbey of St. John the Baptist in Trogir; Oghuz invasion of the Balkans
- 1066 Peter Krešimir IV proclaimed "King of Croatia and Dalmatia"; rebellion of the Vlachs in Larisa
- 1068 Pecheneg raid into Transylvania; battle of Chiraleş
- 1069 Foundation of the Abbey of St. Peter In the Village near Split
- 1070 Arab pirates sacked Demetrias
- 1071 Hungarians attacked and occupied Belgrade and sacked Niš
- 1072 Rebellion of Tatous, Sesthlay, and Satzas in Paradounavon
- 1073 Rebellion of George Vojteh in Skopje
- 1074 Amico of Giovinazzo invaded Dalmatia; coronation of King Zvonimir of Croatia
- 1075 Council of Split banned the use of Slavic in the liturgy
- 1076 Carniola and Istria granted to the patriarch of Aquileia by Emperor Henry IV
- 1077 Michael of Duklja obtained the banner of St. Peter from Rome in recognition for his royal title; Pecheneg raid into Thrace
- 1078 Revolt of Nicephorus Basilakes in Dyrrachion; revolt of the Paulicians in Philippopolis; first Cuman raid into the Balkans

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| xxii | <i>Chronology</i>   |
| 1080 | Foundation of the Monastery of the Mother of God of Mercy in Veljusa  |
| 1081 | Robert Guiscard attacked Dyrrachion; Byzantine troops under Emperor Alexios I Comnenus defeated at Dyrrachion by the Normans  |
| 1082 | Bohemond of Taranto occupied Pelagonia, Trikkala, and Kastoria and laid siege to Larisa; foundation of the Monastery of the Mother of God Petritzonitissa in Bachkovo |
| 1083 | Byzantine troops recovered Kastoria; Paulician revolt in Philippopolis  |
| 1087 | Pecheneg–Cuman raid into the Balkans; Alexios I Comnenus attacked Dristra   |
| 1088 | Battle of Markellai   |
| 1089 | Anti-pope Clement III raised the bishop of Bar to the status of Archbishop of Dioclea   |
| 1091 | Cuman raid into Transylvania; battle at Levunion  |
| 1092 | Dukljan raid into Byzantine territories; Cuman raid into Thrace   |
| 1096 | Passage through the Balkans of the pilgrims led by Walter the Penniless and Peter the Hermit  |
| 1097 | Peter, the last Croatian ruler, defeated in the Kapela Mountains; passage through the Balkans of the crusading army led by Godfrey of Bouillon                        |
| 1098 | Passage through Croatia of the crusaders led by Raymond de St. Gilles   |
| 1100 | Crusaders from Lombardy plundered the environs of Philippopolis   |
| 1105 | Hungarian invasion of Dalmatia  |
| 1108 | Treaty of Devol   |
| 1111 | Mercurius first mentioned as “Prince of Transylvania”   |
| 1114 | Cumans attacked Vidin; the Byzantine troops crossed the Danube to fight the Cumans in their own territory   |
| 1115 | Venetian authority over the islands of the Kvarner Bay restored   |
| 1116 | Venetian control established over Zadar   |

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- 1122 Cuman invasion of Thrace; Emperor John II Comnenus attacked the Serbs
- c. 1131 Korčula Codex completed
- 1135 Foundation of the Cistercian Abbey of Stična
- 1137 First Hungarian expedition into Bosnia
- 1147 Crusaders under Emperor Conrad III camped outside Philippopolis; the passage through the Balkans of the crusading army led by King Louis VII of France; Normans sacked Corinth and Thebes
- 1148 Cuman invasion of Thrace; Emperor Manuel I Comnenus attacked the Cumans north of the Danube
- 1149 Emperor Manuel I Comnenus attacked Uroš II of Serbia
- 1150 Battle on the Tara River; Byzantine troops devastated Frangochorion
- 1153 Andronicus Comnenus appointed duke of Niš and Braničevo
- 1154 Manuel I restored to power Uroš II; the bishopric of Zadar elevated to the status of archbishopric
- 1159 Ivan Rostislavich of Galicia crossed Moldavia together with his Cuman allies; first mention of a Venetian count of Zadar
- 1160 Foundation of the Carthusian Abbey of Žiče
- 1163 Stephen IV ruler of the southern region of Hungary
- 1164 Andronicus Comnenus captured by the Vlachs in Moldavia; Stephen IV established support in Sirmium
- 1165 Rabbi Benjamin of Tudela visited Thebes and Thessalonica; Stephen III of Hungary reestablished Hungarian control over Sirmium and Semlin, both retaken shortly thereafter by the Byzantines; Hungarian control reestablished over Zadar; Desa, the Serbian *zhupan*, tried in front of the emperor; Tihomir, Sracimir, Miroslav, and Nemanja appointed co-rulers of Serbia
- 1166 Byzantine attack on Transylvania; Nemanja attacked Kotor and Tihomir's domain in Serbia; construction of the cathedral Church of St. Tryphon in Kotor completed
- 1167 Treaty between Nicholas Kačić, duke of Omiš, and Kotor

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- 1168 Foundation of the Benedictine Abbey at Sâniob
- 1169 Templars granted the Vrana Abbey near Zadar
- 1172 Manuel I attacked Nemanja, who was taken prisoner and paraded in Constantinople
- 1175 Raynerius, Bishop of Split, traveled to Constantinople; frescoes in the Church of St. Chrysogonus in Zadar completed
- 1176 First mention of the *voevode* of Transylvania
- 1180 King Béla III of Hungary occupied Sirmium and Frangochorion; Hungarian troops sacked Serdica and removed the relics of St. John of Rila
- 1181 Nemanja attacked Kotor and imposed his rule on the Dalmatian coast
- 1182 First mention of a Hungarian count of Dalmatia
- 1185 Normans sacked Thessalonica; revolt of the Vlach brothers Peter and Asen
- 1187 Byzantine army defeated near Beroe by the Cumans
- 1189 Passage of the crusaders under Emperor Frederick I Barbarossa through the Balkans; Nemanja and Peter established contacts with Emperor Frederick promising military assistance
- 1190 Emperor Isaac II Angelos attacked Nemanja
- 1191 First mention of the “Church of the Saxons” in Transylvania
- 1192 Conflict between Peter and Asen
- 1195 Asen took Serdica and transferred the relics of St. John of Rila to Tărnovo
- 1196 Nemanja abdicated in favor of his son Stefan; Asen and Peter died
- 1197 Ioannitsa (Kaloyan) became ruler of the Vlach and Bulgarian rebels in the northern Balkans
- 1198 Nemanja took the monastic vows and moved to Mount Athos
- 1199 Vlachs and Cumans raided Thrace; Nemanja-Simeon died

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- 1200 Byzantine campaign against Ivanko
- 1202 Crusaders took Zara (Zadar); conflict between Nemanja's sons Vukan and Stefan
- 1203 Stefan restored to power in Raška with the assistance of Ioannitsa's troops
- 1204 Crusaders took Constantinople; Renier de Trith received Philippopolis as fief; Boniface of Montferrat began the conquest of Greece; Ioannitsa crowned king in Târnovo by the papal legate
- 1205 William de Champlitte and Geoffrey of Villehardouin began the conquest of Peloponnesus; battle at Koundoura; William de Champlitte proclaimed Prince of Achaia; battle of Adrianople; Emperor Baldwin of Constantinople died in Bulgarian captivity
- 1207 Boniface of Montferrat killed by Cuman marauders; Ioannitsa murdered by his men under the walls of Thessalonica
- 1208 Foundation of the Carthusian Abbey at Jurklošter; Geoffrey of Villehardouin proclaimed Prince of Achaia; Bulgarian troops under Boril defeated by Emperor Henry of Constantinople
- 1209 Parliament in Ravennika confirmed the Latin lordships in Morea; Demetrius crowned King of Thessalonica
- 1212 Church synod in Târnovo for the condemnation of the Bogomil heresy; a rebellion in Vidin against Boril caused the intervention of Hungarian troops from Transylvania; Teutonic Knights brought to Transylvania
- 1213 Michael Dukas of Epirus took Dyrrachion
- 1214 Michael Dukas died; Theodore Dukas became ruler of Epirus
- 1217 Templars granted the castle of Šibenik; Theodore Dukas of Epirus defeated and killed Peter of Courtenay; Stefan crowned first king of Serbia by the papal legate
- 1218 John Asen returned to Bulgaria and overthrew Boril
- 1219 Foundation of the autonomous archbishopric of Serbia
- 1221 Church synod in Žiža summoned by Archbishop Sava



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- 1224 Theodore Dukas took Thessalonica
- 1225 Peter of Hum elected Prince of Split; Teutonic Knights expelled from Transylvania
- 1227 Theodore Dukas crowned emperor; the Cuman chieftain Boricius accepted baptism in Transylvania
- 1228 Creation of the bishopric of Cumania
- 1230 Battle at Klokotnica
- 1231 Hungarian troops occupy Niš and Braničevo
- 1232 Creation of the Hungarian march of Severin
- 1234 Construction of the monastery church at Mileševa completed; foundation of the Cistercian Abbey of Kostanjevica
- 1236 John Asen and John Vatatzes besieged Constantinople
- 1237 Theodore Dukas released from Bulgarian captivity; John Asen attacked the Nicaean troops in Tzurullon; a plague outbreak in Tărnovo forced John Asen to make peace with John Vatatzes; Archbishop Sava of Serbia died
- 1238 John Asen allowed the crusaders recruited by Baldwin II to pass through the Bulgarian lands on their way to Constantinople
- 1241 John Asen died; Mongol invasion of Hungary
- 1242 Serbia and Bulgaria devastated by the Mongol troops of Kadan
- 1243 Uroš I crowned king of Serbia
- 1244 Matthew Ninoslav, *ban* of Bosnia, was elected Prince of Split; privilege of King Andrew II of Hungary in favor of the Saxon “guests” of Transylvania (*Andreanum*)
- 1246 Nicaean troops occupy Thessalonica; Michael II Dukas seized Ohrid
- 1247 John Plano Carpini appointed Archbishop of Bar; charter of King Béla IV of Hungary in favor of the Hospitallers mentioned Vlach polities between the Carpathian Mountains and the Danube
- 1249 Conquest of Peloponnesus completed after Monemvasia was taken

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## ABBREVIATIONS

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|            |  |
|------------|--|
| AAASH      | <i>Acta Archaeologica Academiae Scientiarum Hungaricae</i>                                     |
| AB         | <i>Archaeologia Bulgarica</i>  |
| ABSA       | <i>Annual of the British School at Athens</i>  |
| AEMA       | <i>Archivum Eurasiae Medii Aevi</i>  |
| AMS        | <i>Annual of Medieval Studies at the CEU</i>   |
| BF         | <i>Byzantinische Forschungen</i>   |
| BHR        | <i>Bulgarian Historical Review</i>   |
| BMGS       | <i>Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies</i>  |
| BS         | <i>Balkan Studies</i>  |
| BZ         | <i>Byzantinische Zeitschrift</i>   |
| CA         | <i>Cahiers Archéologiques</i>  |
| CCM        | <i>Cahiers de Civilisation Médiévale Xe–XIIe Siècles</i>                                       |
| EB         | <i>Etudes Balkaniques</i>  |
| EBPB       | <i>Etudes Byzantines et Post-Byzantines</i>  |
| GSU        | <i>Godishnik na Sofiiskiiia Universitet “Kliment Okhridski.” Istoricheski Fakultet</i>         |
| H&M        | <i>Histoire et Mesure</i>  |
| IAI        | <i>Izvestiia na Arkheologicheskiia Institut</i>  |
| IIBI       | <i>Izvestiia na Instituta za Bălgarska Istoriia</i>  |
| INMV       | <i>Izvestiia na Narodniia Muzei Varna</i>  |
| JOB        | <i>Jahrbuch der österreichischen Byzantinistik</i>   |
| MGH        | Monumenta Germaniae Historica. Scriptores rerum Germanicarum in usum scholarum separatim editi |
| MGH Epist. | Monumenta Germaniae Historica. Epistolae   |

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| MGH Poet.         | Monumenta Germaniae Historica. Poetae Latini Medii Aevi                                  |
| MGH SS            | Monumenta Germaniae Historica. Scriptorum  |
| MGH SS rer. Germ. | Monumenta Germaniae Historica. Scriptorum rerum Germanicarum                             |
| PG                | Patrologiae cursus completus. Series Graeca  |
| PL                | Patrologiae cursus completus. Series Latina  |
| REB               | <i>Revue des Etudes Byzantines</i>   |
| RES               | <i>Revue des Etudes Slaves</i>   |
| RESEE             | <i>Revue des Etudes Sud-Est Européennes</i>  |
| RRH               | <i>Revue Roumaine d'Histoire</i>   |
| RVM               | <i>Rad Vojvodanskih Muzeja</i>   |
| SCIVA             | <i>Studii și Cercetări de Istorie Veche și Arheologie</i>                                |
| SEER              | <i>Slavonic and East European Review</i>   |
| SG                | <i>Studi Gregoriani</i>  |
| SL                | <i>Starobălgarska Literatura</i>   |
| SP                | <i>Starohrvatska Prosvjeta</i>   |
| T&M               | <i>Travaux et Mémoires du Centre de Recherches d'Histoire et Civilisation Byzantines</i> |
| VV                | <i>Vizantiiskii Vremennik</i>  |
| WMBHL             | <i>Wissenschaftliche Mitteilungen des bosnisch-herzegowinischen Landesmuseums</i>        |
| ZFF               | <i>Zbornik Filozofskog Fakulteta. Beogradski Univerzitet</i>                             |
| ZLU               | <i>Zbornik za Likovne Umetnosti</i>  |
| ZRVI              | <i>Zbornik Radova Vizantološkog Instituta</i>  |