

Book Reviews

Nicolas Cheetham, Sir, *Mediaeval Greece*, New Haven, Yale University Press, 1981, pp. 341.

"Nostra autem respublica non unius esset ingenio, set multorum, nec una hominis vita, sed aliquot constituta seculis et aetatibus". What Cicero wrote about Rome in his *De Republica*, is applicable in the case of Greece. Yet in the long history of Greece the Mediaeval era is unfortunately neglected. Although there have been many scholarly studies covering the history of Classical and Byzantine Greece, there has been a curious and indeed unfortunate lack of scholarship covering Mediaeval Greece. This book by Sir Nicolas Cheetham will fill the historical gap for its chosen period; and the author is well equipped to write it. In the introduction of the book the author states his purpose in writing the book. "For most people the Greek Middle Ages are a blank. This book seeks to fill the gap and present the main features of the story without entangling the reader in a too fearsome labyrinth of names, dates and events. To a certain extent the very strangeness of the subject invites exactly that risk, and I can only apologise if the reader feels stuck like an armoured Frankish knight in the marshes of the Kephissos". After an introductory chapter, there are fourteen chapters on the Death of Ancient Hellas, the Hellas re-Hellenized, the Coming of the Franks, the situation of Athens and Sparta, the Shadow of the Angevis, the Catalans, the Byzantine Reaction, a Florentine at Athens, the Defence of Hellas, the Last Years of Athens and Mistra, the Duchies of the Islands, the Venetian Epilogue, East and West, and Crete from 1204 to 1669. The bibliography is well chosen, and two good maps.

Mediaeval Greece is a small but excellent book presenting in an interesting and clear way the history of Mediaeval Greece. Sir Nicolas provides a sound and readable introduction to a subject which Greek and non-Greek scholars have not covered adequately, while the student of Greece and general reader is often ill-informed. With this book the student of Greek history need not to remain uninformed about Mediaeval Greece.

Ball State University Muncie, Indiana

JOHN T. A. KOUMOULIDES

John E. Rexine, *The Hellenic Spirit: Byzantine and post-Byzantine*, Belmont, Massachusetts: Institute for Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies, 1981, pp. 136.

The long history of Greece is a record of an extraordinary achievement of energy, *tharros*, or courage, tenacity and vitality. A record in which the *Ellenikon Pnevma*, or Hellenic Spirit, survived the passage of time serving as the eternal force and inspiration for all