

within the city walls. After the disaster at Ankara in 1402, the Byzantines drove the Muslims out of Constantinople and destroyed their mosque. During the period of strife over the succession to the Ottoman throne (1402-13), Manuel II supported Mohammed against Musa and even loaned him ships with which to transport his soldiers from Asia to Europe, where his rival's strength was concentrated. The Byzantines vitiated whatever gratitude they may thus have earned by "conspiring" with European powers against the Turks. Husein gives a minute description of the unsuccessful efforts of Emperor Constantine XI to dissuade the Sultan from besieging Constantinople and of the final siege and capture of the city. Following this, he recounts the history of the city from its earliest times, its appearance at the time of its fall, and Mohammed's efforts to rebuild and repopulate it. As for his sources, he does not cite Byzantine works directly, but the extensive knowledge of Byzantine history which he displays suggests that he was familiar with Byzantine sources, perhaps through the intermediary of Idris Bitlisi, upon whose writings he largely based his own account.

The present edition of volume II of *Beda'i ul-veka'i* consists of 1034 facsimiles of text, an enlightening introduction by A.S. Tveritina which evaluates the importance and the originality of the work, a useful summary of the contents of each chapter by I.A. Petrosian, and an index of names and places mentioned in the text.

As Husein's work receives the attention from specialist which it deserves, it will provide new insights into the early history of the Ottoman Empire and of the countries of Southeastern Europe which formed a part of it.

Wake Forest College  
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

KEITH HITCHINS

Gligor Stanojević, *Crna Gora Pred Stvaranje Države 1773-1796*. [Montenegro Before the Formation of the State 1773-1796] Historical Institute in Belgrade. Special edition. Vol. 12. Beograd 1962, p. 355.

The strongly accented tribe-structure of the Montenegrin society calls for parallel historical, social and ethnological studies of the process of the formation of the modern state in Montenegro. Besides the existing pre-war literature (VI. Djordjević, D. Vuksan, M. Dragović), quite a number of historians today are dealing with the same problem (V. Čubrilović, P. Popović, B. Pavićević, G. Stanojević, T. Nikčević).

Five studies have appeared in the last few years having as a subject the formation of the Montenegrin state.

This book about Montenegro in the period before the establishment of the state is a continuation of the large work done by G. Stanojević on the history of Montenegro, especially of his study about Šćepan Mali. In his newly published work, Stanojević studies the period since the death of Šćepan Mali (1773) to the victories of the Montenegrins over Machmoud Pasha Boushatliya at Martinici and Krouse (1796), on the eve of the declaration of the Montenegrin state and the first Codex in 1898.

The society of Montenegro based on tribes fell into a state of crisis at the end of the XVIIIth century, when the Montenegrins liberated themselves finally from the Turks. This crisis increased by the struggle among the pro-Russian, pro-Austrian and pro-Turkish parties, as well as by the rivalry between Metropolitan Petar Petrović and the "gouvernadour" Jovan Radonjić. Behind this struggle was hidden the resistance of the old clans to the establishment of a central government, and the dispute whether it should be based on foreign assistance or internal strength. That is why Metropolitan Petar's conception, based on a compromise with the old tribal customs, was proved healthier and more realistic, than the pro-Austrian leaning of Radonjić. In that process, which was under strong foreign influence, the general meeting of Montenegrins (Opšti crnogorski zbor), unable to accomodate to the dynamic development of events, gave way to the meeting of clan-principals (Zbor plemenskih glavara), the initial step of the future House of Representatives. This was the first, but the most difficult step toward the establishment of a modern government.

The study by C. Stanojević is based on a rich and so far unknown documentation from the Archives of Venice. As an annex, at the end of the book, are published 19 documents in extenso, as well as a long summary in French.

Historical Institute  
Belgrade

D. DJORDJEVIĆ

Milan Živanović, *Dubrovnik u borbi za ujedinjenje 1908-1918* [Dubrovnik in its struggle for National Union 1908-1918]. The Historical Institute in Belgrade, Special editions, Series I. The Yugoslav Countries in the XXth century, Book 2, p. 349.

In the year 1962 the Historical Institute in Belgrade published a special series entitled: The Yugoslav Countries in the XXth century.