

and that the Italians favored the Serbs against the Croats. He sides with the liberal views of Caetano Salvemini and Leonida Bisolatti, the sponsors of the Rome Congress and fervent supporter of Italo-Yugoslav understanding, and is critical of the official nationalistic policies of the Italian diplomacy, namely of Foreign Minister Sidney Sonnino, who obstinately opposed the establishment of Yugoslavia contrary to the conviction of Italian liberalism, inspired by the legacy of Mazzini. This section of Valiani's book throws new light on relations between Italy and the Yugoslavs, a subject which has not been objectively studied by Italian historians. Valiani's scholarship and objectivity stand in sharp contrast to the often emotional and confused presentations of Italo-Yugoslav relations and the Adriatic Question by some Italian ultranationalists.

Thus Valiani is helping to introduce into Italian historiography on the disintegration of the Habsburg monarchy a new style free of nationalistic prejudice. Each chapter of his book contains impressive biographical material that will be of particular interest to all students of this crucial period of history. The author's knowledge of many languages, including Croatian, Czech, Hungarian, Polish and German has given him direct access to the wealth of primary sources in those languages without which the downfall of the Dual Monarchy cannot be placed into proper perspective.

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G. Ostrogorski, *Srska oblast posle Dušanove smrti* (The Region of Serres after the Death of Dušan). Posebna izdanja Vizantološkog Instituta, knjiga 9. Belgrade 1965. Pp. XII+171.

Of the small states, which were formed after the dissolution of Stefan Dušan's Empire, the region of Serres in Eastern Macedonia holds a position of special importance. This small state tried hard to ward off the Turkish threat and its fall was fatal even for Byzantium itself. For the Balkanologist who wishes to examine the relations between Greeks and Serbs in the Byzantine provinces, there is no region more interesting than this.

Unfortunately, the history of this state had not been studied very thoroughly due to the fact that the sources at our disposal were meagre and on first sight did not hold out great promises. Narrative sour-

ces exist hardly at all. The writings of the Emperor John Cantacuzenus and of Nicephorus Gregoras contain information which is scattered and refers only to the first period of the creation and development of the state.

However, the historical material in recent years became richer, chiefly because of the publication of many documents kept in various monasteries, and in particular in the monasteries of Mount Athos. Among this material there are valuable elements, the collection and comparison of which can give us as far as possible a full and authentic picture of the economic and social terms, of the ethnic composition of the population, the position of the church, the rôle of the Greeks and Serbs in ecclesiastical and civil government and the relations of this state with the rest of the Byzantine Empire.

Historical scholarship has been fortunate enough to find in the person of Professor G. Ostrogorski a great specialist in this field. This well-known historian's work, is divided into six chapters and two appendices. In the first chapter, pages 3-19, under the title, "The Emperor Uroš and the Kral Vukašin, the Empress Helen and the Despot John Uglješa," the author examines the rôle which these Serbian leaders played in the state of Serres. In his opinion, the Empress Helen had the control of this state in her hands for many years. However, the region of Serres did not break away immediately from the Serbian Empire of Stefan V Uroš; this break came later and more gradually. The author explains, moreover, that John Uglješa must have been invested with the title of Despot of Serbia between August and September of 1365, and that he undertook the government of the state of Serres legally and not by usurping authority. That is to say that a similar thing happened here as was happening in Byzantium. The Emperor of the Serbs, Stefan V Uroš, between August and September of the year 1365 invested Vukašin, the elder brother of John Uglješa with the title of Kral, and at the same time he granted despotic rights to the younger brother, John Uglješa and set him up as Archon of the region of Serres.

The second chapter, under the title "The Place" refers to the boundaries of the state of Serres. Professor G. Ostrogorski, refuting previous opinions mainly of Serbian historians, reaches the following conclusions: The boundaries of the Empire of Stefan Dušan after his death in 1355, did not remain unchanged. Already by 1356 or at the beginning of 1357 the Byzantines, the great general Alexius and the great *primikirios* John, succeeded in taking over Chrysoupolis and Anakto-

roupolis. By 1357 or the beginning of 1358 they took over Christoupolis (Kavala) also. After the breakdown of Byzantine authority in Thrace the boundaries of the state of Serres extended eastwards farther than the river Nestus. On the other side the whole of Chalcidike with Mount Athos belonged to the state of Serres. To the north and the northwest the river Strymon did not constitute the boundary of the state of Uglješa. Actually, the state of Serres included all the districts which lay within and beyond the area up river.

"The Population and the Economy," is the title of the third chapter, pages 42-79. In it the author examines the ethnological composition and the economic situation of the region of Serres. The majority of the population of this region is made up of Greeks and Slavs. Together with these lived certain other minorities, concerning which, however, we have no exact information. The picture we have of Thessaloniki in Byzantine times is very much clearer; and here there lived in addition to the Greeks, Armenians, and Jews as well as immigrants from Venice, Genoa and other places.

With reference to the economic situation of the region of Serres, Professor G. Ostrogorski gives credence to the well known fact that this region was already famous from ancient times for its great wealth. Agriculture flourished in its plains. Similarly in the Middle Ages the agriculture showed the same fruitfulness. It is by no means through chance that the richest land holdings of the monasteries of Mount Athos are to be found in this region and particularly in the districts south of the river Strymon. Apart from agriculture and viniculture, fishing and iron mining also play a most important role in the economy of the state of Serres.

In the fourth chapter, pages 80-103, the organization of the state of Serres is examined under the chapter heading, "Organization." The author proves that after the break up of the Empire of Stefan Dušan, the region of Serres far from deteriorating, as had been erroneously supposed, on the contrary, passed through a period of great development and progress. The author asserts also that the organisation of the state was founded on the basis of a system, which was inherited from the Byzantine Empire. Greek was the recognised and official language of the state. In political as well as in ecclesiastical administration we find virtually no element which has not its roots in Byzantium. However from an ideological point of view the shadow of Byzantium obscures the state of Serres throughout the duration of the Serbian rule. This does not

mean that nothing changed during the period of Serbian rule. Representatives of the Serbian aristocracy came into important state positions. Their influence increased as time went on, especially in the ecclesiastical sphere.

The fifth chapter, "The bishopric of Serres, and Mount Athos under Serbian Rule," pages 104-126, is devoted to the administration of the bishopric of Serres, to the role of the Greek and Serbian elements in church leadership and in particular to the difficult problem of the relations between the Serbian and Byzantine authority in the Greek districts acquired by the Serbs. The author uses the crysobulls of Byzantine Emperors, which ratify and insure the acquisition of the monasteries on Athos regardless of whether they were under Byzantine or Serbian rule, and reaches the conclusion, that the recognition of the supreme prerogative of the Byzantine Emperor was maintained in the monasteries of Mount Athos throughout the duration of the Serbian rule and that in Mount Athos parallel with Serbian authority, the authority of Byzantium also continued to hold sway.

The book is enriched by two appendices. In the first there is new evidence about Alexius, John and their father Demetrius Palaeologus. In the second there is a discussion concerning the time of the fall of Komotine into the hands of the Turks. The author proves that the fall of the city must be placed in the winter of the year 1364-5. The work ends with a glossary of names and geographical terms.

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Tatiana Stavrou, 'Ο ἐν Κωνσταντινουπόλει Ἑλληνικὸς Φιλολογικὸς Σύλλογος. Τὸ Ἰνστιτούτον Παιδείας τοῦ ἀλυτρώτου Ἑλληνισμοῦ (La Société Littéraire Hellénique de Constantinople. Le Ministère de l'Education Nationale des Grecs non-indépendants), Athènes, 1967. Pp. 320.

Le XIXe siècle est une période bizarre pour l'enseignement et les lettres helléniques. L'état hellénique indépendant n'avait pas pu s'élever au niveau dont ses créateurs avaient rêvé; il resta au point de vue spirituel et social une province balkanique arriérée. Par contre, les nombreux grecs qui se trouvaient hors de ces frontières et en plein essor continuèrent sa tradition séculaire comme facteurs importants du développement spirituel et économique des pays de la Péninsule Balkanique et du Proche-Orient. Dans cette oeuvre civilatrice une large part