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Book Review: NICHOLAS G. NIKOLOUDIS, Πολιτικός και κοινωνικός μετασχηματισμός του ελληνικού χώρου (13ος-17ος αι.). Από το Βυζάντιο στη Λατινοκρατία και την Τουρκοκρατία, K. & M. Ant. Stamoulis Publications, Thessalonike 2016

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Βιβλιογραφική αναφορά:

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Nicholas G. NIKOLOUDIS, *Πολιτικός και κοινωνικός μετασχηματισμός του ελληνικού χώρου (13ος-17ος αι.). Από το Βυζάντιο στη Λατινοκρατία και την Τουρκοκρατία*, K. & M. Ant. Stamoulis Publications, Thessalonike 2016, pp. 240. ISBN 978-618-516-1460

The book is a collection of twelve already published studies covering events and situations of the late and post-Byzantine period and the first centuries of Ottoman domination. It concludes with an appendix that offers an overview of the main political affairs, military incidents complemented with the timeline of the reigns of the Byzantine emperors (pp. 202-232, 8 maps, 1 fig.). An aggregated summary in English is found in the last pages of the book (pp. 233-236). The first paper presents the military conflicts that took place in the territory of Magnesia (Thessaly) during the Paleologan period, which were related to the nodal position of Demetrias and to the region's strategic passages to southern Greece (pp. 13-26, 3 figs.). The Zealot revolt within the context of the broader theological controversies and the various situations of internal strife that occurred in Thessalonike, Constantinople and several centers of political power in Thrace (Adrianoupolis, Didymoteichon) is the subject of the next essay. Noteworthy is the evaluation of the variegated ways of the phenomenon interpretations by modern historians (pp. 27-60, 3 figs.). The next two papers refer to the historical work of Laonikos Chalkokondyles. The first one puts into consideration the historian's views on the reunion of churches attempted to be settled at the Council of Florence (pp. 61-66, 2 figs.); the second presents the influences of Chalkokondyles' "Demonstrations of Histories" to the work of Theodoros Spandounes, the historian who had fled to Venice (pp. 67-75, 1 fig.). The following study compares the effective military operations undertaken by Constantine XI Palaiologos in Peloponnese (1428-1430) to the discrepancies that prevailed in his defensive tactics during the last siege of Constantinople (pp. 75-92, 3 figs.). The subsequent study challenges the contribution of the sea guns in

the naval artillery and tactics in the period 1442-1461 (pp. 93-106, 2 figs.). The next papers examine the eyewitness accounts of the Fall of Constantinople in 1453 by Niccolò Barbaro (pp. 107-117, 6 figs.) and by Leonard, the Latin Archbishop of Mytilene (pp. 119-133, 3 figs.). Leonard's reference to Phlantanelas/Francesco Lecanella, the Genoese ship captain who was in charge of the command of the emperor's cargo boat that brought grain to the besieged Constantinople is the object of the discussion (pp. 135-140).

The last three papers stem from the author's engagement with the research on the Turkish raids and the establishment of the Ottomans in the Byzantine territories. The incursions in the area of Pontus, with special references to the Turkish raids between the 11th and 15th centuries are presented in one of these studies (pp. 141-174, 6 figs.); while the two other are devoted to Athens and deal with the conversion of Parthenon to a mosque, dated as late as 1470 (pp. 175-185, 3 figs.); and the murder of Michael Limbonas by a Turkish mob in Ottoman occupied Athens in 1678 (pp. 187-201, 3 figs.). Thus, the volume offers insights into certain historical events and personalities who have been closely involved in the historical developments during the period of transition from the medieval period to modern times.

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