

## Glossary of Terms

- Adamite:** Member of a heretical religious current that sought to return mankind to Adam's original state in paradise.
- Appanage:** A large land grant by a ruler to a member of his family. Usually not hereditary. Holder usually had rights of internal administration and local tax revenue but owed military service to his superior and was allowed no independence in foreign affairs.
- Archdeacon:** A high Catholic Church official, serving more-or-less as executive secretary to a bishop.
- Archon:** A leader; term used in a variety of ways. In this volume it particularly pertains to the Greek landed nobility.
- Armatoloi (or Martoloz):** During the Ottoman period, Christians of a locality mobilized and armed to serve under one of their number (a captain) to keep local order.
- Assize:** Term used by the Franks for a session of a legislative body or court, and also for decisions reached at such a session.
- Autocephalous:** Self-headed, autonomous. Used to describe a branch of the Orthodox Church (e.g., the Serbian Church) that could, while remaining in communion with Constantinople, elect its own bishop and administer itself; such a Church, however, did not have the power to alter doctrine.
- Bailiff (or bailie, bailo):** An official who administered a territory for a superior lord. Thus the Angevins sent bailiffs to administer their lands in the Morea.
- Ban:** A ruler or governor of a large province, usually a subordinate of the King of Hungary (or historically so). The title was used in the western Balkans in Bosnia, Croatia, Slavonia, and Mačva. On occasion a ban'ship became hereditary. Sometimes bans were able to achieve considerable, if not complete, independence.
- Banate (or Banovina):** The territory ruled by a ban.
- Beg (or bey):** A Turkish lord. In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries often a tribal or territorial chief. Also, from the late fourteenth century, a governor of an Ottoman province (e.g., a sanjak beg). Later on the title was borne by a large landholder.
- Beglerbeg:** The military governor of a major Ottoman province (or beglerbeglik).
- Bogomil:** A member of a dualistic, heretical sect that arose in Bulgaria in the mid-tenth century and spread beyond Bulgaria into the Byzantine Empire, and from there along the Mediterranean to the south of Western Europe. (For details, see Fine, *Early Medieval Balkans*, pp. 171–79.)
- Bosnian Church:** An independent Church in Bosnia, often called heretical, but proba-

bly only in schism from Rome. It existed from the mid- to late thirteenth century until the late fifteenth century.

Boyar (bojar): A member of the military landed aristocracy in Bulgaria. The term was also used in Russia.

Cadaster: A tax register listing population on, ownership of, and extent of land.

Caesar: The second title (after emperor) in the Byzantine Empire until the late eleventh century. Then it was eclipsed by new titles, first by sebastocrator and then by despot, and thus fell to fourth place.

Canon law: Ecclesiastical law. A canon is a particular article of such law. A canonist is a specialist in canon law.

Castellan: A captain of a castle. For example, a Catalan castellan commanded/held a castle of second rank.

Cathars: Dualist heretics found in the later Middle Ages in southern France.

Chartophylax: Keeper of archives and/or general secretary (or chancellor) of a bishop in the Orthodox Church.

Corvée: Labor owed by a serf to his landowner.

Count palatine: In Hungary, the highest court official after the king, who served in place of an absent king.

Cumans (also called Polovtsy): A Turkish people who appeared in the Steppes in the eleventh century after the decline of the Pechenegs. They were a problem for the eastern Balkans for the next two centuries owing to their raids. However, others settled in Bulgaria and comprised a valuable portion of the armies of the Second Bulgarian Empire.

Cyrillic: The alphabet used for the Slavic languages of the Orthodox Slavs: e.g., the Bulgarians, Serbs (including Montenegrins), Macedonians, and Russians. It was named for Saint Cyril (Constantine), one of the two apostles to the Slavs who created in the ninth century the first Slavic literary language (what we now call Old Church Slavonic).

Despot: An honorary court title of the Byzantine Empire, introduced in the twelfth century as the second highest title after that of emperor. It was an honorary title in the court hierarchy, and though on occasions it was given to the holder of a territory, the title still reflected the holder's position in the Byzantine court rather than his position as ruler of his holding. Thus the term *despotate* for such a territory is often inappropriate.

Devşirme: The Ottoman levy of Christian children for future service in the Ottoman state. The term is also used for those so levied.

Dijak: Slavic for a secretary or scribe.

Djed: Title borne by the head of the Bosnian Church; it literally means "grandfather."

Doge: The title borne by the ruler of Venice.

Država: Serbian for state, derived from the verb *to hold*.

Dualist: Religiously, one who believes in two opposing gods or principles: generally, good vs. evil (or spirit vs. matter). Under this heading one finds the Manichees, the medieval Bogomils, and their Western off-shoots (Patarins, Cathars, etc.).

Eleutheroi: In the Byzantine Empire, term used for rural persons not bound to the soil. Literally, "a free man."

Emir: A prince or ruler of an Islamic territory, or emirate.

*Filioque*: "And the Son." An addition to the Nicene Creed by which the Holy Spirit descends from the Father *and the Son*. Arising in Spain in the sixth century, it had by the ninth century become regular usage in the Western (Catholic) Church.

- After the 1054 break it became the major theological point of difference between the Orthodox and Catholic Churches.
- Franciscan: A member of the Catholic Order founded by Saint Francis.
- Gasmoule: An individual of mixed Frank (Latin) and Greek parentage.
- Ghazi: A Turkish warrior for the (Islamic) faith.
- Ghegs: Members of the Albanian ethnic group to which the tribesmen of northern Albania belong.
- Glagolitic: The first alphabet worked out by Cyril and Methodius for Slavic. It was soon replaced in most places by the Cyrillic alphabet. However, Glagolitic survived for many centuries in Croatia.
- Gospodin: Slavic for a lord. At times borne by the ruler of a state (e.g., George Branković for the first years he ruled Serbia).
- Gost: The second highest title in the Bosnian Church, often held by clerics who headed Bosnian Church religious houses.
- Gramatik: Among the South Slavs, the title earned by one who had successfully completed a prolonged course in literary study.
- Grand župan: Literally, "Grand Count." The title held by the ruler of Raška/Serbia until Stefan Prvovenčani assumed the royal title in 1217.
- Grof: German for a count.
- Hajduk: Serbian term for a brigand, often possessing positive—social bandit—connotations.
- Hellene: Literally, "a Greek." The name was rejected by Greeks through most of the Middle Ages since it connoted a pagan.
- Herceg (in German, Herzog): A duke; the title was assumed by various rulers in the western Balkans in the fifteenth century.
- Hesychasm: A mystical movement whose members, called Hesychasts, through special practices achieved a vision of the Divine Light. Though the ideas and practices were much older, the term is often used specifically for the movement that achieved prominence in the fourteenth century.
- Hexamilion: The wall built across the Isthmus of Corinth to stop would-be invaders of the Peloponnesus.
- Hiža: Literally, "a house"; a residence for Bosnian Church clerics.
- Hospitalers: The Knights of Saint John of Jerusalem. A Catholic military order.
- Hussites: The followers of John Hus; considered heretics by the Catholic Church. Though their center was in Bohemia, some of them were to be found in the northern Balkans, particularly in Srem.
- Janissary: Derived from *Yeni çeri*, literally, the "new corps"; a member of a very effective Turkish infantry corps, armed with fire-arms. Its members were originally drawn from the *devşirme* (the child) levy.
- Kapetan: A military commander; term used at times for garrison commanders or for leaders of small independent bands of soldiers. In the Ottoman period used in the Slavic Balkans for a fortress commander responsible for keeping order in a region.
- Karaites: Members of a Jewish sect that rejected the Talmudic interpretations of the Bible. Going directly back to the Bible, they came up with their own interpretations; thus their customs differed considerably from those of the mainstream—Rabbinical—Jews.
- Katun: A settlement of Balkan pastoralists, in particular the settlements of Vlachs, Albanians, and Montenegrins.

Kaznac: In Slavic, a treasurer.

Kephale (in Slavic, kefalia): Literally, “a head.” A Byzantine town commander who combined military and civil functions. The term came to be used subsequently in regions under the Serbs.

Khan: Turkish title for a supreme chief, used by the Tatars.

Klept: Greek term for a brigand, having often the same positive connotations as the Serbian term *hajduk*.

Knez (in Serbian or Croatian; knjaz in Bulgarian): Prince. At times, however, the term was used for leaders with lesser roles: e.g., the mayor of a Dalmatian city, the military leader (and family head) of a major—Montenegrin, Hercegovinian, or Vlach—tribe, or a fortress commander in Bosnia.

Krstjanin (plural, krstjani): A Bosnian Church religious.

Ktitor (in Slavic, from Greek ktistes or ktetor): A founder. Used in our text for monastery founders.

Kum/kumstvo: A God-father/God-fathership.

Lavra: By the later Middle Ages, a major monastery.

Legate: An ecclesiastic appointed to represent the pope.

Logothete: In the Middle and Late Byzantine period, a high Byzantine court secretary standing at the head of a bureaucratic department. The term spread to the Serbs and Bulgarians among whom logothetes tended to be secretaries responsible for drawing up documents.

Manichee: A member of a dualistic religion (opposing light against darkness) based on the teaching of a third-century Persian named Mani. Damned as a heresy by the Christian Church. The term was frequently used for later medieval dualists and generally as a term of abuse.

Megaduke: Grand admiral of the Byzantine navy.

Merop (pl. meropsi): A category of dependent peasant in Serbia.

Massalians (Massalians): Members of an enthusiastic early Christian sect. The sect had died out long before the period this volume covers. However, the name was revived as a term of abuse for Bogomils.

Metropolitan: A major bishop, standing over a major diocese, ranking below the patriarch and above the archbishops.

Midrash: Verse by verse exegesis of the Old Testament by Jewish teachers over the centuries. Many volumes of such have been published.

Nomocanon: A legal compilation combining secular and Church law for the use of Church courts. The secular items tended to focus on matters coming before Church courts, like marriage, inheritance, etc. Long used in Byzantium, the Nomocanon appeared in Serbian and Bulgarian editions—based on Byzantine texts—in the thirteenth century.

Orthodox: Correct belief. A term used for the mainstream Church in East and West until the Church split. Subsequently the term came to refer to the Eastern Churches in communion with Constantinople, while the term Catholic, also originally used to refer to the Church both in the East and West, came to refer solely to the Church of Rome.

Ousia: A Greek word meaning essence/substance. The divine ousia was frequently a matter of theological discussion and debate. In the fourteenth century Hesychasts defended their visions by insisting what they saw was a divine energy and not the divine ousia, which is invisible and unknowable.

Panipersebast: A Byzantine court title just below that of caesar.

- Paroikos** (pl. paroikoi): The Greek term used for dependent peasants in the Later Byzantine Empire.
- Patarin**: A name first used for certain Church reformers in Milan allied to Pope Gregory VII. Later the term came to be applied to dualist heretics in Italy who were part of the Cathar movement. The name then came to be used by Italians and Dalmatians, when writing in Latin, to describe members of the Bosnian Church, even though those Churchmen do not seem to have been dualists.
- Patriarch**: A major bishop who was the independent head of a major diocese. In the Early Church (from the mid-fifth century) there were five recognized patriarchates: Rome, Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, and Jerusalem. After they became autocephalous the Bulgarian and Serbian Churches sought and at times unilaterally assumed this title for the heads of their Churches. At times through pressure they even received recognition for their patriarchal titles from the Constantinopolitan patriarch.
- Patriciate**: The collective, often closed, group of elite merchant families who controlled the affairs of many Dalmatian towns.
- Paulicians**: Member of a religious sect, seen as heretical by the Orthodox Church, arising in Armenia and eastern Anatolia. Long considered to be dualist, the Paulicians have recently been shown to have been Adoptionists. After being defeated by the Byzantines, many Paulicians were transferred to Thrace and the Rhodopes to defend the border with Bulgaria, where (centered in Philippopolis) many continued to retain their beliefs and practices.
- Podesta** (potestas): A deputy appointed to govern a town or community by a superior, e.g., in the 1250s the Hungarian Ban of Dalmatia appointed a podesta in each town to represent him.
- Praitor**: Governor of the late-twelfth-century combined theme of central Greece and the Peloponnesus. By then the office had become chiefly a civil one. The holders were often absentees.
- Praktor**: A high financial official responsible for assessing and collecting taxes in the late twelfth century in the combined Greek theme. The praktor acted as governor in the absence of the praitor.
- Pronoia**: In the Byzantine Empire (and later in Bulgaria and Serbia) a grant of an income source (usually land) given in exchange for service (usually military) to the state. The pronoia reverted to the state when the holder died or ceased to perform the services for which it had been assigned. In time the grants tended to become hereditary, but the service obligations remained.
- Pronoiar**: The holder of a pronoia.
- Protos of Mount Athos**: The chief elder or first monk on Mount Athos.
- Protostrator**: A high Byzantine court title which occasionally was granted to foreign leaders. Choniates, writing in the early thirteenth century, equates it with the Latin title of Marshall.
- Protovestiar**: The title of a Byzantine palace official in charge of the imperial wardrobe. The title was taken over by the South Slavs. Though it is not certain what the functions of the Slavic protovestiar were, they seem to have been some sort of financial official.
- Romania**: Western term for the Byzantine (and also the Latin) Empire or its territory.
- Romaniote Jews**: Members of the Greek-speaking Jewish communities of the Byzantine Empire.
- Sabor**: Slavic for a council.

- Sanjak: An Ottoman province, a subdivision of a beglerbeglik.
- Sasi (Saxons): Germans from Saxony; many migrated to Hungary, however, where some became active as miners. Between the thirteenth and fifteenth centuries some came from Hungary to various Balkan regions, where they provided technological know-how for the mining; they were known as Sasi.
- Sbornik (Zbornik): A collection of texts.
- Sebastocrator (Sevastocrator): Second title after emperor, above caesar and below despot.
- Sevast: Title borne by town governors appointed by Strez in Macedonia early in the thirteenth century.
- Shaman: A healer-priest who communicates with the spirit world, often in a trance. Such priests were found among medieval Balkan Vlachs.
- Sokalnik: A category of dependent peasant in medieval Serbia.
- Spahi (Sipahi): An Ottoman cavalryman who provided his service in exchange for a fief (a timar).
- Stećak (pl. stećci): Scholars' term for the unusual medieval gravestones found throughout Bosnia and Hercegovina. This term is preferable to the frequently used term *Bogomil gravestone*; for there is nothing Bogomil about the stones, which were erected by members of all denominations: Orthodox, Catholic, and Bosnian Church.
- Strategos (pl. strategoi): Greek for general; from the seventh century used specifically for the military commander of a theme (a military province). The strategos not only commanded the local troops but was also more-or-less the governor of the province.
- Strojničnik (pl. strojnici): Member of the council that guided the djed, the leader of the Bosnian Church.
- Subinfeudation: A Western feudal practice by which a vassal of a superior lord could also have vassals of his own. In contrast, in the Orthodox lands all fiefs were held from the crown and all service was owed the ruler.
- Suffragan bishop: A lesser bishop subordinate to a greater one.
- Sultan: Title of the Ottoman sovereign.
- Syncretism: A combining of differing beliefs from two or more religions.
- Synod: A Church council.
- Synodik: A text presenting the decisions of a synod.
- Talmud: Collection of ancient Rabbinic writings constituting the basic religious authority for traditional Judaism.
- Tepčija: A high official at the medieval Bosnian and Serbian courts. Neither the meaning of the title nor the functions carried out by its holder are known.
- Theme: Originally a Greek term for an army corps, it came in the seventh century also to refer to a Byzantine military province defended by that corps. Soon thereafter the whole Byzantine Empire was divided into these military provinces, each under the direction of a strategos.
- Timar: An Ottoman fief assigned to a spahi—or other serviceman—for military service.
- Tosks: The members of the ethnic group to which most Albanians of southern Albania belong.
- Transhumance: A pastoral life-style, in which shepherds carry out a regular seasonal migration with their animals, wintering in the valleys and moving up into the mountains in the summer.

- Triarch:** The island of Euboea was divided among three great fief-holding barons; each was called a triarch.
- Tsar:** Slavic equivalent of the Greek *basileus*, emperor. The Slavs used it for the Byzantine emperor, and in time when Slavic rulers—i.e., the rulers of the Second Bulgarian Empire and Dušan of Serbia—claimed for themselves the imperial title, they called themselves tsars.
- Turcoman:** Turkic nomadic tribesmen from Central Asia who began pouring into Anatolia in the eleventh century. Their migrations continued over the following centuries. Many became associated with the Ottomans and provided much of the manpower for the Ottomans' extensive conquests.
- Typikon:** Literally, "a rule;" used for the foundation charter of a monastery; it laid down the rules by which the monastery would be run.
- Ulema:** The doctors of Muslim religious law, tradition, and theology.
- Uniate:** An Orthodox believer who has accepted Church Union with Rome and submitted to the pope; in most cases the popes allowed the Uniates to retain their own services.
- Vicariat of Bosnia:** The territory of southeastern Europe in which the Franciscans carried out a mission to win the populace to Catholicism; the mission was headed by a vicar.
- Vlachs:** A pastoral people, related to the Rumanians and presumably descended from the Dacians, found in large numbers in certain parts of the Balkans, particularly in Thessaly, Macedonia, Bulgaria (where they played an important role in creating the Second Bulgarian Empire), northeastern Serbia, and Hercegovina.
- Vlast:** Stefan Lazarević divided Serbia into military districts, each called a vlast (meaning an authority); each was under a governor who was also a military commander and bore the title vojvoda.
- Vojvoda:** A military commander. Also used to denote the chief of a Montenegrin tribe. At times used for a subordinate territorial ruler (e.g., Stefan Vukčić, prior to assuming the title herceg, bore the title Vojvoda of Bosnia).
- Zadužbina:** An obligation for one's soul; each Nemanjić ruler of Serbia built a monastery as his zadužbina.
- Zbor:** A tribal assembly.
- Župa (županija):** A territorial unit (roughly equivalent to a county) in Croatia, Bosnia, and Serbia.
- Župan:** The lord of a county—a count.