

reading public. I doubt that either audience will be satisfied with this particular book. It may, however, serve as a somewhat useful source for students, in that the text summarizes the known data and the bibliography provides further sources. I would personally like to see books which attempt to cover this prehistoric/early historic time span composed of separate chapters by specialists in each period. Such books would be much more interesting and lively, and perhaps more satisfying to both students and the general reading public.

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SERBSKAIA GOSUDARSTVENNOST' V X-XIV VV. (KRITIKA TEORII "ZHUPNOI ORGANIZATSII"). By *V. P. Grachev*. Moscow: "Nauka," 1972. 332 pp. 1.29 rubles.

Mr. Grachev has tackled an important and controversial problem in the history of Western and Southern Slavs. Although he is primarily concerned with a critique of the emergence of the *župa* (the early territorial organization of certain Slavic peoples under a *župan*) in the historical development of Serbia, his polemical survey is largely dedicated to the theory of *župa* organization in the historiography of the Croats, Czechs, and other Slavs. This is not surprising, since despite Grachev's long elaboration, no major Serbian historians have advocated that there was a direct outgrowth of the Serbian medieval state from the *župe*.

The author surveys the source material on the subject and takes into account the differences in various regions of Serbia. He stresses—quite correctly—the evolution and differences between the *župe* and *župani* of earlier times and those of the Nemanjić period. There are many good points made in this connection, such as the author's effort to show that internal as well as external forces influenced the fate of *župe* and *župani*, although he sometimes pushes his point too far. Nevertheless, Grachev's basic attempt to prove the failure of earlier theoretical approaches to the problem in order to arrive at a new, Marxist explanation applied to Serbian history, does not seem particularly successful. The sources, as he admits, are less than abundant and considerably less than clear on many points. This is why much of the author's reasoning is based on such statements as "judging from all [information]," "it is possible to think," "it is possible to state with sufficient conviction," "it is possible to assume," "it is fully justified to assume," and so forth (see especially pp. 284–85). To draw far-reaching conclusions from this kind of reasoning is a pretty hazardous enterprise.

In addition, there are some errors in the interpretation of sources (for example, p. 81, on sources from Dubrovnik) and some lacunae in their use, as well as in the use of recent Yugoslav works (such as M. Dinić, *Odluke veća Dubrovačke Republike*, vol. 2, Belgrade, 1964; I. Božić et al., *Istorija Jugoslavije*, Belgrade, 1972; and N. Klaić, *Povijest Hrvata u ranom srednjem vijeku*, Zagreb, 1971; the author, however, may not have had access to the last two books).

On the whole, Grachev has made a sincere effort to approach the subject from a new point of view. His book, even if less than completely successful in this respect, is a stimulating contribution to research and discussion on this important problem.

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