

Of particular note here is his pioneering in-depth study of the Slavonian Varžić *zadruga*, whose survival demonstrated to Mosely that the institution continued to manifest considerable viability in modern times under appropriate conditions. Among his most enduring findings was the absence among the peasants of any perceived dichotomy between the nuclear family household and the *zadruga*. Over time, a given family line might alternate between the two, as *zadrugas* eventually split and nuclear families expanded into new *zadrugas* by encompassing succeeding generations.

Another of Mosely's contributions was his threefold delineation of geographical zones of survival or disappearance of the *zadruga* as a dominant mode of peasant life-activity. From this scheme he attempted to hypothesize political, social, and economic causes for the *zadruga's* continuation or decline. His conclusion that the *zadruga* was most viable in a pioneer setting where new lands were to be cleared was not entirely borne out by subsequent studies.

Thus, Daniel Chirof's article on the Rumanian communal village shows quite convincingly why the *zadruga* did not develop in that country despite the presence of conditions very similar to those Mosely described. In Rumania, the communal village provided a "functional alternative" not based on the extended family. Eugene Hammel offers some interesting historical evidence of the development of the *zadruga* in medieval Serbia, emphasizing the flexibility of structure then as in later periods. He points out that similar arrangements existed outside of the Balkans, although the *zadruga* format was especially common there. This is a point mentioned by other contributors, most notably by Emile Sicard, who perhaps glosses over too many distinctive elements in arguing that the extended family commune is a "natural stage" in the evolution of property and family relationships in an agrarian milieu.

The book contains three interesting accounts of personal family experiences in *zadrugas* by Wayne Vucinich, Jozo Tomasevich, and Ante Kadić. There are also very valuable treatments of vital existing *zadrugas* in Macedonia (by David Rheubottom) and Kosovo (by C. J. Grossmith), both based on recent field research. Space limitations prohibit further discussion of these and other extremely worthwhile contributions. In short, this is a meaty compendium indeed. Philip Mosely's memory is well served by it.

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KRAJ SRPSKOG CARSTVA. By *Rade Mihaljčić*. Belgrade: Srpska književna zadruga, 1975. 325 pp.

It has usually been accepted that the disintegration of the Serbian empire of the Nemanjići began immediately after the death of its founder, Tsar Dušan, in 1355. The causes were inherent in the empire's organization. By conquering Byzantine provinces, Dušan brought in all the weaknesses of the Byzantine feudal system, and by rapid territorial expansion, the Nemanjići exceeded their power to govern. They had no time to assimilate the different territorial acquisitions into the stronger and healthier administrative organism of their "Serbian lands." The Church was granted large privileges, and the *pronoia* system was gradually abandoned. All these and other developments undermined the central authority, reduced the military capacity of the state, and favored the emergence of separate feudal entities.

Soon after Dušan's death, individual regions of his state, starting with those on the periphery, began to assert their independence.

But, according to Mihaljčić, the process of dissolution of the empire lasted longer than is generally believed. He shows clearly that the various feudal regions did not all break away immediately after the death of the first emperor. The domains of Vuk Branković and the Dragoš brothers, for example, did not do so until after the Battle of Maritsa (1371). Moreover, Dušan's immediate successor, Uroš, was in fact a stronger figure than he is often portrayed. By exalting "mighty" Dušan and derogating "weak" Uroš, historians have, according to Mihaljčić, exaggerated the role of personality in history. As he sees it, the reasons for the collapse of the empire lie not so much in the inability of a particular ruler, as in the complex historical process involving the tempo and character of the feudalization which developed independently of the ruler's personality. Feudalization, for example, took place more rapidly in the "Greek" than in the "Serbian lands." In the northern "Serbian lands" the nobility remained loyal to Emperor Uroš longer than they did in other regions, which could be attributed not only to the strength of the cult of the Nemanjići but also to the slower pace of the feudalization of the "Serbian lands."

That the origin and the downfall of the ephemeral medieval Serbian empire has never been adequately explained is due both to a paucity of primary sources and to careless use of those that do exist. Apart from consulting the works of the leading authorities on medieval Serbian history, Mihaljčić reexamined and reassessed the classical Serbian, Byzantine, and Dubrovnik materials and augmented the evidence found in them with data derived from numismatic materials and frescoes. As a result, he has come up with new insights into the period of Dušan's declining empire. Meticulous use of evidence and the clarity of the narrative make his work a valuable contribution to Serbian historiography. The volume contains excellent maps and illustrations, a list of charters issued by Emperor Uroš, a selected bibliography, an index of personal names, and a summary in French.

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LEGITIMACY THROUGH LIBERALISM: VLADIMIR JOVANOVIĆ AND THE TRANSFORMATION OF SERBIAN POLITICS. By *Gale Stokes*. Publications on Russia and Eastern Europe of the Institute for Comparative and Foreign Area Studies, 5. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1975. xvi, 279 pp. \$11.00.

If Svetozar Marković was as preeminent in the entire history of revived Serbia as Skerlić insisted as early as 1910, this was due, at least in part, to the lackluster of his opponents, particularly the nascent liberals. Undistinguished or not, Serbia's moderate reformers merit monographic assessment. Professor Stokes's meticulously researched work fills this need in the case of one of the most important of the array. Vladimir Jovanović belonged to the first generation of Serbia's foreign-educated intellectuals. An eclectic compiler and popularizer, he was a foremost exponent of West European liberalism, which he adapted to Serbian conditions. His purpose was to forge a constitutional and parliamentary alternative to the traditional statecraft of Miloš and Mihailo.

This volume is rewarding not only because it presents a precursory treatment of Serbian liberalism outside Yugoslavia. It is based on solid archival work and