

of the Tripolitan War and by Turkish atrocities against Bulgarians in Macedonia, which saw the bourgeois press succumb to war fever and open a campaign to mobilize public opinion for an attack on Turkey. This conclusion is true, but hardly original.

Beyond presenting a limited amount of information on the technical side of Bulgarian publishing, the financing of newspapers, the composition of editorial and reporter staffs, and newspaper circulation, this book contributes little to our knowledge of Bulgaria's political history.

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DECLINE AND FALL OF BYZANTIUM TO THE OTTOMAN TURKS. By *Doukas*. An annotated translation of "Historia Turco-Byzantina" by *Harry J. Magoulias*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1975. 346 pp. Illus. \$18.50.

A valuable Byzantine source concerning Constantinople's fall to the Turks in 1453, and the complex events before and for some years after it, has now been made available in English translation by Professor Harry Magoulias. Descriptions of these events by three other contemporary Byzantine historians, Chalcondyles, Critoboulos, and Sphrantzes, are available, and another, a brief Venetian account, has recently been discovered, but Doukas's account is in certain respects unique. He was not only an eyewitness but, as an administrative employee serving the Latin Gattilusi family of Lesbos, he was also a participant in certain events. No less important, by virtue of his connections with Byzantines, Latins, and even Turks, he was frequently able to secure firsthand reports on events from other persons.

Doukas provides concrete evidence to support the oft-made generalization that a large-scale conversion of Christians to Islam occurred as a result of the opening of key posts in the Turkish government to educated Christians and of the formation of the elite Janissary corps drawn from the sons of Christian peasants. He also gives valuable information on the use of alum (important for dyemaking) in technical processes, on the technique then used to prevent the shattering of cannons at the time of discharge, and, not least interesting, on the sexual depravity of the Turkish leaders. Doukas, a Byzantine aristocrat, is far from impartial toward the Turks but in some ways he is no less biased toward some of his fellow Greeks. As a supporter of religious union with Rome, the overriding political and religious question of the age for the Byzantines, Doukas feels little compassion for the antiunionist mass of the Greek people who clung so tenaciously to their religious practices.

This English translation, which is based on the definitive Greek text established by Greco in 1958, seems to be carefully and faithfully done. Notes are provided to explain any ambiguous passages or incorrect statements of Doukas and any unusual words in the text. As the editor points out in his introduction, Doukas's style, though typically Attic, often incorporates neologisms, words drawn from the demotic Greek of the period. Besides serving Byzantinists, this smooth readable English version should interest the student of affairs in the eastern Mediterranean world during the late fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

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