

“Adriatic style” in Moravia at approximately the time of the first preaching of Cyril and Methodius is connected by Dvornik with a widespread “Byzantine missionary style” of the period. Both of these architectural styles became, in turn, part of the syncretic Byzantino-Slavic culture developed in Moravia by the Apostles of the Slavs and carried into Bohemia, Pannonia, and southern Poland. In sum, Dvornik’s book is not only useful reading but also a work that will stimulate thoughtful discussion and further research. Its chief shortcomings are a paucity of maps, the lack of references in the text to the fascinating illustrations, and the relegation of the very useful footnotes to the back of the book. Given the importance of this volume, such problems are minor indeed.

Vlasto’s book surveys a considerably wider scene than Dvornik’s study, for it focuses on each of the Slavic groups at the moment of its integration one way or another into what we are pleased to call “Western civilization.” Its best sections are those that deal with Slavic peoples, such as the Wends and the future Slovenes, who remained beyond even the secondary influence of Byzantine missionary activities. Other sections of the book are of decidedly uneven quality, which is a shame, for the author displays an enviable ability to handle material in many languages, both ancient and modern. Many of the hypotheses put forth by the author are intriguing, but they are rarely cogently argued or well documented. Solutions to problems generally accepted by scholars, on the other hand, are often reconstructed in minute detail. Such deficiencies raise a larger question about this work: to whom is it addressed? One might assume that a book subtitled “An Introduction to the Medieval History of the Slavs” would be designed for the neophyte in this field; but the uninitiated student will find this work more frustrating than illuminating. The book contains simple factual errors and non sequiturs, is unnecessarily laced with untranslated Latin quotations and pedantic Latinisms, occasionally assumes scraps of comparatively arcane background, and is written in an awkward prose style, which makes it difficult to read, and on occasion misleads. Prose style aside, then, the book must be intended for scholars in the field; but they of course already have a survey knowledge of the subject and are interested in seeing new interpretations defended. They too will be frustrated by this book.

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ORIGINS OF THE GREEK NATION: THE BYZANTINE PERIOD, 1204–1461. By *Apostolos E. Vacalopoulos*. Translated by *Ian Moles*. Foreword by *Peter Charanis*. Rutgers Byzantine Series. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1970. xxviii, 413 pp. \$20.00.

This book is a translation and revision of the first volume of A. E. Vacalopoulos’s three-volume *Historia tou Neou Hellënismou*, a work that addresses itself to a thorny, controversial problem—the emergence of modern Hellenism. The problem is particularly difficult because this process took place within the framework of two multinational, synthetic states: the Byzantine and the Ottoman empires. It is further complicated by the fact that “Hellenism” is an elusive term. As Vacalopoulos indicates, the term does not necessarily include ethnic origin, because many of the inhabitants of the Byzantine Empire and of modern Greece were Greek-speaking, Hellenized people of diverse ethnic stock. The particular problem that has caused so much trouble—the question of the importance of the Slavic invasions in Greece—is,

one hopes, growing obsolete. Vacalopoulos here relegates it to its proper place, admitting substantial Slavic infiltration but also insisting on the early cultural assimilation of many of the Slavs. He shows that in the last analysis Hellenism is almost the quintessence of a national consciousness: a Greek is whoever thinks of himself as a Greek. Two important requirements are that he speak Greek and (less essential after 1453) that he be an Orthodox Christian. For Vacalopoulos, the study of the origins of the Greek nation is primarily the study of the growth of an idea.

In this first volume of his work, Vacalopoulos traces the origins of a new, functional Hellenism to the traumatic experience of the Fourth Crusade and the conquest of Constantinople in 1204. Chapter 3, one of the best in the book, is full of insights about the cultural ferment at Nicaea that changed the pedantic Hellenism of the past into a live experience. The Byzantines began to use the term "Hellene" to refer to themselves, not simply to denote pagans.

The rest of the volume traces the development of the reconstituted Palaeologan Empire and the creation of the Ottoman state in Asia Minor and in Europe. The chapters on the Ottoman conquest of Asia Minor and the fall of Constantinople in 1453 are particularly illuminating in terms of the author's topic. Vacalopoulos sees what other historians are also beginning to see—that the last 250 years of the Byzantine Empire were not solely years of decline. Rather, out of the collapse of the state emerged a new society, marked by particularism in administration and by a Greek consciousness. The author discusses very ably both the material circumstances of the various parts of the old Byzantine Empire in this period and the growth of an idea. He integrates the two in a compelling manner.

The Byzantinists will not find in this volume a complete history of the years 1204–1461, but they will find a discussion focused on the growth of Hellenism and based on the discriminating use of an abundance of source material. The second volume is soon to be made available by the same publisher, and the entire work is a valuable contribution to the subject.

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DIE WIRTSCHAFTSGESCHICHTE DES MEMELGEBIETS. 2 vols. By *Gerhard Willoweit*. *Wissenschaftliche Beiträge zur Geschichte und Landeskunde Ost-Mitteleuropas*, no. 85. Marburg/Lahn: Johann Gottfried Herder-Institut, 1969. Vol. 1: pp. x, 1–429. Vol. 2: pp. 430–927. DM 38, paper.

The first volume of Willoweit's economic history of Memel comprises the period from the founding of a castle by the Teutonic Knights in the thirteenth century to the end of the First World War. The second volume contains the history from 1919 to 1945. Of almost a thousand pages, seven hundred are taken up by the descriptive part, almost two hundred are devoted to statistics going back as far as 1541 (though most of them deal with the twentieth century), and the rest contains an extensive bibliography and an index. The reader might wish for some additional, topically arranged tables of reference.

The whole represents a comprehensive survey in three parts. The first covers geography, prehistory, and the Middle Ages (up to 1525)—an unhappy story of a town founded by the Teutonic Knights' Order as a link between Prussia and Livonia,