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*Political, Social and Religious Dynamics in South-Eastern Europe
Dynamiques politiques, sociales et religieuses dans le Sud-Est européen*

ABSTRACTS

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and of how important it was to the West. It also speaks about the great length to which the West was willing to go to keep the Christian oikoumene united and protected. As a matter of fact, the castles of the East show, through their resemblance to those of the West, the capacity of the West to engulf the East in its network, just like present-day European Union.

Vladimir V. Mihajlović (Institute for Balkan Studies, Belgrade)

How to Write an Encyclopedia: L. F. Marsigli and his Network

L. F. Marsigli (1658--1730), a soldier, diplomat, and man of letters, spent the final decades of the 17th century in the lands of South-Eastern Europe. Marsigli was a colonel of the Austrian troops in the Great Turkish War and the imperial commissioner in establishing the border after the Treaty of Karlowitz, but also the author of the most comprehensive book on South-Eastern Europe of the time: its lands, people, history, flora and fauna, rivers etc. The aim of this paper is to show the ramified network L.F. Marsigli established in order to create his encyclopediac master-piece – *Danubius Pannonico-Mysicus*. The network which included people of all classes and faiths, of all ethnicities and positions: from members of Europe's most renowned learned societies to local fishermen and shepherds.

Manuela Dobre (University of Bucharest, Faculty of History)

The Role of the Past in shaping the XVth Century Byzantine Identity

The Byzantine world owes a lot to the cultural heritage of antiquity. It is worth mentioning that Byzantium established its own identity, its own norms and values based on references to its past. It worshiped the tradition and based his religious and political ideology on previous examples. The founding myths illustrating the importance of origins as well as references to the past are important topics for the process of developing and cultivating the identity of a people. Our paper underscores how the respective themes are highlighted in the fifteenth century historical sources describing what may be addressed as a Byzantine identity. These were hectic times, both politically and religiously, when continuous territorial gains by the Ottoman Turks made even more pressing the need for Western help which the Pope was able to deliver in exchange for concessions from the Eastern Church. According to official ideology, the Empire was acknowledged to be the right heir of the Roman Empire and till the very end the Byzantines considered themselves to be Roman citizens but not the product of Roman past. There was a new self-identifying