

THE SERBS AND BYZANTIUM  
DURING THE REIGN OF TSAR STEPHEN DUŠAN  
(1331–1355) AND HIS SUCCESSORS



Stephen Dušan, fresco, Lesnovo monastery, 14th century

**THE SERBS AND BYZANTIUM  
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TSAR STEPHEN DUŠAN  
(1331–1355) AND HIS SUCCESSORS**

George Christos Soulis

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## FOREWORD

The present work originated as the doctoral dissertation of the late George C. Soulis, submitted at Harvard University for the doctoral degree in 1958. His death on June 18, 1966, found Soulis well into a fundamental rewriting of the manuscript. He had recast, expanded, and greatly enriched chapters one, three, and four, more than doubling the size of each with new materials. Though one must assume that he intended to revise other parts as well, we must be grateful for these additions and recastings, as they transformed the work from a dissertation into a mature scholarly product. Shortly after his death, his brother, Nicholas Soulis, and his mother consulted one of the present editors as to what should be done with his unpublished manuscripts, which included the materials for the present book. An inspection of the manuscripts revealed the existence of more than one version of the doctoral dissertation; the manuscript of the greatly revised chapters one, three, and four; copious bibliographical additions; and paginal notations addressed to himself with directions for further reworking. There were letters from Professors Bariša Krekić and Sima Ćirković offering comments and advice, which Soulis had requested from them. Thus, shortly after Soulis's death his brother took the manuscript material to Cambridge and deposited it in the Harvard University Archives, whence in December 1979 Professor Giles Constable, Director of Dumbarton Oaks, brought the manuscript material to Washington so that the editors could prepare the final version for publication.

The first step in its preparation was the collation of the various versions of the work Soulis had left behind. This portion of the task was undertaken by Speros Vryonis. As mentioned above, chapters one, three, and four of the original dissertation were replaced by completely revised chapters that are much richer than their originals; chapters two, five, six, seven, and the four appendices have undergone only slight modifications while he had added an additional appendix (the fifth). Once the final form of the work had been determined, the brunt of the work passed to Jelisaveta S. Allen, who undertook the task of integrating and editing the materials, with the full collaboration of Vryonis. At the same time she incorporated the numerous bibliographical notes that Soulis had penned into