

# Acknowledgments



I find myself in a difficult position to write the Acknowledgments for this book. Shortly after I submitted the manuscript to the Press, I suffered a stroke followed by a series of other health problems, which have seriously affected during the last two years the parts of my memory covering the 1990s, when I was writing the volume in your hands. I greatly profited from many discussions with my colleagues and my graduate students at the University of Michigan, as well as Balkan scholars from the United States and Europe. But it would not be fair to mention some and ignore others. Occasionally, at least, some credits are given in footnotes. Thus, to those seemingly ignored—and you know who you are—my deepest thanks. And also my deepest thankfulness to the fates that this book was completed and submitted to the Press before my troubles struck me.

However, I do want to add special thanks to three individuals, whose help was invaluable in this project. First, Janet Crayne, the University of Michigan's Slavic librarian, was indispensable in locating and procuring, and always with good grace, numerous obscure publications for me. Second, I want to express my gratitude to my nephew Ljubiša Mladenović, an extraordinarily able computer engineer, who solved—and is still solving—the mass of computer problems that enabled me to physically produce this manuscript. And third, my deepest thanks goes to my student and friend Ian Mladjov for producing the excellent maps for this volume as well as for doing the index.

I also want to express my deep gratitude to my immediate family, my wife Gena and sons Alexander (Sasha) and Paul, who, despite the hindrances this project imposed on them for several years, supported and encouraged me throughout this endeavor. With love and gratitude, this volume is dedicated to them.