Acknowledgments

The decision to write this work began when the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Committee on Eastern Europe asked me to produce a major regional history of medieval southeastern Europe, as part of a series for which they hoped to receive outside funding. When their funding efforts proved unsuccessful, I decided to go ahead with my part anyway, because there had long been a need for a book such as this one. I divided the project in half, first surveying the period from the late sixth century to the 1180s. That volume, entitled *The Early Medieval Balkans: A Critical Survey from the Sixth to the Late Twelfth Century* was published by the University of Michigan Press in 1983. The present volume is that work’s continuation. And to prevent this already long volume from becoming any longer, I have kept the background material to a bare minimum. Thus readers seeking a more thorough background about the state of the Balkans in the 1180s than this work provides are referred to the earlier volume.

Like its predecessor, this volume is to a large extent based upon lectures for the course on the medieval Balkans that I have been giving for the past fifteen years at the University of Michigan. I owe a debt to my students’ responses to these lectures; their comments and questions have compelled me constantly to rethink and clarify my thoughts.

A grant from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation combined with a University of Michigan sabbatical semester gave me the academic year 1982–83 to devote entirely to writing. By the end of the year I had completed a first draft, which became the basis for a semester’s lectures in the winter term 1984. I then carried out the revisions I felt the work required. It is a pleasure to recognize here the various people and institutions that have assisted in this work’s preparation. First the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, in addition to supporting my time to write, also provided funds for travel—which enabled me to go to London and utilize the magnificent British Library of the British Museum and to visit Yugoslavia to use the Narodna Biblioteka in Sarajevo and to discuss various questions with Yugoslav scholars—as well as funds for typing and preparation of maps. The Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies at the University of Michigan generously provided a subvention to facilitate the book’s publication. The Center for Russian and East
European Studies at the University of Michigan, encouraging me to have the
manuscript prepared on a word processor, assumed the responsibility for
printing what appeared on my many disks. The Center also provided funds for
me to hire a research assistant, Michael Oyserman, who could read Hebrew
texts and scholarship; this enabled me to expand my discussion of Jewish
communities in the medieval Balkans. I also owe a debt to Michael, whose
enthusiasm for the project equaled my own. My debt to my friend and typist,
Mary Ann Rodgers, is enormous. Not only did she do a fabulous typing job,
but she also introduced me to the world of computers and went well beyond
the call of duty by producing dictionaries of terms, which made the produc-
tion of maps and glossaries much easier. I also want to thank my friends
Professor Thomas Trautmann and Marion Hoyer, both of the University of
Michigan, who generously assisted me in proofreading the galleys, and my
nephew Ljubiša Mladenović, who created the computer program to do the
index and whose enthusiasm for every aspect of my project was unflagging.

I am very grateful to Professor R. V. Burks of Wayne State University
and to Dr. Duncan M. Perry and Professor George Majeska, both of the
University of Maryland, whose careful reading and detailed suggestions have
greatly improved the work. I am also indebted to Professor Sima Ćirković of
the University of Beograd and to Professor Desanka Kovačević of the Univer-
sity of Sarajevo for their thorough and careful responses to various questions I
put to them. None of the individuals named, of course, bears any respon-
sibility for the errors of fact and interpretation that may remain in the work.

I am also most grateful to my family, to my wife, Gena, and sons,
Alexander (Sasha) and Paul, who all suffered at times from the loss of my
attention. They not only bore this deprivation with good spirit but also pro-
vided encouragement and a great deal of time in the thankless job of
proofreading.