

**Chapter 1 : Maria Galli Stampino (Translator of Enrico; or, Byzantium Conquered)**

*In Enrico; or, Byzantium Conquered, one of the most ambitious and rewarding of her numerous nar In Enrico; or, Byzantium Conquered, one of the most ambitious and rewarding of her numerous narrative works, Marinella demonstrates her skill as an epic poet.*

From to the Ottoman conquest The Macedonian era: Its armies regained the initiative against the Arabs in the East, and its missionaries evangelized the Slavs , extending Byzantine influence in Russia and the Balkans. And, despite the rough military character of many of the emperors, there was a renaissance in Byzantine letters and important developments in law and administration. At the same time there were signs of decay: The empire was in theory an elective monarchy with no law of succession. But the desire to found and perpetuate a dynasty was strong, and it was often encouraged by popular sentiment. This was especially true in relation to the Macedonian dynasty, the founder, Basil I , having murdered his way to the throne in But, having acquired the imperial crown, Basil tried to make sure that his family would not lose it and nominated three of his sons as coemperors. Though he was his least favourite, through the scholarly Leo VI , who succeeded him in , the succession was at least secure. Even the three soldier-emperors who usurped the throne during the Macedonian era were conscious, in varying degrees, that they were protecting the rights of a legitimate heir during a minority: From the initiative lay with the Byzantines. The struggle with the Arabs, which had long been a struggle for survival, became a mounting offensive that reached its brilliant climax in the 10th century. Its weakest point was in the Taurus Mountains above Syria and Antioch. Basil I directed his operations against this point, recovered Cyprus for a while, and campaigned against the Paulicians , a Christian sect regarded as heretical by the Byzantines and whose anti-imperial propaganda was effective in Anatolia. But the conflict with Islam was one that concerned the whole empire, in the West as well as in the East, and by sea as well as by land. In the Arabs completed the conquest of Sicily, but they were kept out of the Byzantine province of South Italy, for whose defense Basil I had even made some effort to cooperate with the Western emperor Louis II. The worst damage, however, was done by Arab pirates who had taken over the island of Crete. In they plundered Thessalonica , carrying off quantities of loot and prisoners. Leo VI sent a naval expedition to Crete in , but the Muslims drove it off and humiliated the Byzantine navy off Chios in It was Curcuas who paved the way for the campaigns of the two soldier-emperors of the next generation. In Nicephorus Phocas , then domestic commander of the armies in the West, reconquered Crete and destroyed the Arab fleet that had terrorized the Aegean for years; he thereby restored Byzantine naval supremacy in the eastern Mediterranean. In his strategy achieved unexpected triumphs all along the eastern frontier and culminated in the capture of Aleppo in Syria. When he was proclaimed emperor in March , Nicephorus appointed another Armenian general, John Tzimisces , as domestic of the East, though he retained personal command of operations against the Arabs. By he had driven them out of Cyprus and was poised for the reconquest of Syria. The revived morale and confidence of Byzantium in the East showed itself in the crusading zeal of Nicephorus Phocas and John Tzimisces for the reconquest of Syria and the Holy Land. The ground lost to Islam in the 7th century was thus fast being regained; and, although Jerusalem was never reached, the important Christian city of Antioch , seat of one of the patriarchs, was recaptured in These victories were achieved largely by the new cavalry force built up by Nicephorus Phocas. In the areas recovered from the Arabs, land was distributed in military holdings with the interests of the cavalry in mind. But the victories were achieved at the expense of the western provinces, and an attempt to recover Sicily ended in failure in By almost all of Syria and Palestine , from Caesarea to Antioch , as well as a large part of Mesopotamia far to the east of the Euphrates , was in Byzantine control. But he died in and his successor, Basil II , the legitimate heir of the Macedonian house, concentrated most of his resources on overcoming the Bulgars in Europe , though he did not abandon the idea of further reconquest in the East. The kingdom of Georgia Iberia was incorporated into the empire by treaty. Part of Armenia was annexed, with the rest of it to pass to Byzantium on the death of its king. The gains can be measured by the number of new themes provinces created by the early 11th century in the area between Vaspurakan in the Caucasus and Antioch in Syria. The annexation of Armenia, the homeland of many of the

great Byzantine emperors and soldiers, helped to solidify the eastern wall of the Byzantine Empire for nearly a century. John I Tzimisces left, effigy on a gold coin, in a private collection. Peter Clayton Relations with the Slavs and Bulgars Although imperial territory in the East could be reclaimed only by military conquest, in the Balkans and in Greece the work of reclamation could be assisted by the diplomatic weapon of evangelization. The Slavs and the Bulgars could be brought within the Byzantine orbit by conversion to Christianity. The conversion of the Slavs was instigated by the patriarch Photius and carried out by the monks Cyril and Methodius from Thessalonica. Their invention of the Slavonic alphabet Cyrillic and Glagolitic made possible the translation of the Bible and the Greek liturgy and brought literacy as well as the Christian faith to the Slavic peoples. The work began in the Slavic kingdom of Moravia and spread to Serbia and Bulgaria. Latin missionaries resented what they considered to be Byzantine interference among the northern Slavs, and there were repeated clashes of interest that further damaged relations between the sees of Rome and Constantinople. The conversion of the Bulgars became a competition between the two churches and was ably exploited by the Bulgar king Boris until, in , he opted for Eastern Orthodox Christianity on condition of having an archbishop of his own. Bulgarian wars The trade with Constantinople that followed the missionaries whetted the appetites of the Slavs and Bulgars for a larger share in the material wealth of Byzantium. Simeon Symeon I of Bulgaria, who succeeded his father Boris in and who had been educated at Constantinople, proved to be an even more dangerous enemy than the Arabs. His efforts to become emperor dominated Byzantine history for some 15 years. In he brought his army to the walls of Constantinople, demanding the imperial title. Simeon died in , and his son Peter I came to terms with Byzantium and married a granddaughter of Romanus. Relations with Russia The Russians lay far outside the Roman jurisdiction. Their warships, sailing down the Dnepr from Kiev to the Black Sea , first attacked Constantinople in They were beaten off, and almost at once Byzantine missionaries were sent into Russia. The Russians were granted trading rights in Constantinople in , but in and , led by Prince Igor, they returned to the attack. Both assaults were repelled, and Romanus I set about breaking down the hostility and isolationism of the Russians by diplomatic and commercial contacts. In John Tzimisces accomplished the double feat of humiliating the Russians and reducing Bulgaria to the status of a client kingdom. The mass conversion of the Russian people followed, with the establishment of an official Russian Church subordinate to the patriarch of Constantinople. Bulgar revolt The Bulgars, however, were not content to be vassals of Byzantium and rebelled under Samuel , youngest of the four sons of a provincial governor in Macedonia. Samuel made his capital at Ochrida and created a Bulgarian empire stretching from the Adriatic to the Black Sea and even, for a while, into Greece , though Thessalonica remained Byzantine. The final settlement of the Bulgar problem was worked out by Basil II in a ruthless and methodical military campaign lasting for some 20 years, until, by , the last resistance was crushed. At the same time the Slav principalities of Serbia Rascia and Dioclea and Croatia became vassal states of Byzantium, and the Adriatic port of Dyrrhachium came under Byzantine control. Not since the days of Justinian had the empire covered so much European territory. But the annexation of Bulgaria meant that the Danube was now the only line of defense against the more northerly tribes, such as the Pechenegs , Cumans , and Magyars. Estrangement from the West The extension of Byzantine interests to the Adriatic, furthermore, had raised again the question of Byzantine claims to South Italy and, indeed, to the whole western part of the old Roman Empire. The physical separation of that empire into East and West had been emphasized by the settlement of the Slavs in the Balkan Peninsula and in Greece , and since the 7th century the two worlds had developed in their different ways. Their differences had been manifested in ecclesiastical conflicts, such as the Photian Schism. The conversion of the Slavs had produced bitterness between the agents of the rival jurisdictions. But the reestablishment of Byzantine authority in Greece and eastern Europe , added to the gains against the Muslim powers in Asia , reinforced the Byzantine belief in the universality of the empire, to which Italy and the West must surely be reunited in time. Until that time came, the fiction was maintained that the rulers of western Europe, like those of the Slavs , held their authority by virtue of their special relationship with the one true emperor in Constantinople. It was sometimes suggested that a marriage alliance might bring together the Eastern and Western parts of the empire and so provide for a united defense against the common enemy in Sicily the Arabs. But the case was dramatically altered when Otto was crowned emperor of the

Romans in , for this was a direct affront to the unique position of the Byzantine emperor. Otto tried, and failed, to establish his claim, either by force in the Byzantine province in Italy or by negotiation in Constantinople. The incident vividly demonstrates the superior attitude of the Byzantines toward the West in the 10th century. John Tzimiskes relented to the extent of arranging for one of his own relatives to marry Otto II in , though the arrangement implied no recognition of a Western claim to the empire. But this union was never achieved; and subsequently Basil reorganized the administration of Byzantine Italy and was preparing another campaign against the Arabs in Sicily at the time of his death in . The myth of the universal Roman Empire died hard. Culture and administration The Iconoclastic Controversy had aggravated the estrangement of the Byzantine Church and Empire from the West. But it helped to define the tenets of Eastern Orthodoxy , and it had an effect on the character of Byzantine society for the future. On the one hand, the church acquired a new unity and vitality: On the other hand, the empire became more aware of its Greco-Roman heritage. The revival was fostered and patronized particularly by the scholar-emperor Constantine VII Porphyrogenitus , who saw to the compilation of three great works on the administration, the court ceremonies, and the provinces of his empire. He also commissioned a history of the age to which he contributed a biography of his grandfather Basil I. The age produced little original research, but lexicons such as the 10th-century Suda , anthologies, encyclopaedias , and commentaries such as the Lexicon and Bibliotheca of Photius were produced in great number. The soldier-emperors of the 10th century were less interested in intellectual pursuits, but scholarship received a new impetus in the 11th century with Michael Psellus. The founder of the dynasty, Basil I , and his son Leo VI , made plain their intention to inaugurate a new era by a restatement of the imperial law. Basil hoped to make a complete revision of the legal code , but only a preliminary textbook Procheiron with an introduction Epanagoge appeared during his reign. Leo VI, however, accomplished the work with the publication of the 60 books of the Basilica , which Hellenized the legal code of Justinian and made it more intelligible and accessible to lawyers. Enshrined in this legislation was the principle of the absolute autocracy of the emperor as being himself the law. The Senate , the last vestige of Roman republican institutions, was stripped of its legislative powers, and it lost most of its judicial functions. Only in the matter of the spiritual welfare of his subjects did the emperor recognize any limits to his authority. The ideal relationship of a dyarchy between emperor and patriarch, the body and the soul of the empire, was written into the Epanagoge of Basil I, in a section probably composed by Photius. The administration in this period was ever more closely centralized in Constantinople, with an increasingly complex and numerous bureaucracy of officials who received their appointments and their salaries from the emperor. The emperor also controlled the elaborate machinery of the foreign and diplomatic service. Some of his civil servants, however, were powerful enough to play the part of kingmakers, notably Basil, the chamberlain who engineered the ascent to the throne of Nicephorus Phocas and John Tzimiskes. Order and the regulation of trade, commerce, and industry in the capital were in the hands of the prefect of the city, whose functions are outlined in the 9th-century Book of the Eparch. He was responsible for organizing and controlling the guilds or colleges of craftsmen and retailers, whose legal rights and duties to the state were strictly circumscribed and supervised. The provinces in Europe and Asia were administered according to their territorial division into themes , which, by the 10th century, numbered more than . The themes, though subdivided and reduced in size, retained their military character. The army and the navy were, for the most part, recruited from the ranks of soldier-farmers who held hereditary grants of land within the territory of each theme. The border districts were protected by contingents of frontier troops, led by their own officers or lords of the marches. Their exploits and adventures were romanticized in the 10th-century folk-epic of Digenis Akritas.

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Life[ edit ] Lucrezia Marinella was the daughter of a celebrated Physician and natural philosopher, Giovanni Marinelli and next to nothing is known of her mother. None of her children seem to have been born in Venice. Entering a convent meant that a woman did have to be married off and was able to pursue education, freedom from marriage, and family life, and they could strive for holiness and sainthood. Also, being a courtesan would have meant that she could pursue knowledge and not be restricted to living the traditional life of a woman in Italian late Middle Ages but, at a very great price. She came from a professional family that very much encouraged her studies, and her father was extremely supportive. It is believed that her solitary life is what allowed her to write so much so soon. But a life of seclusion was typical for women of her social rank in sixteenth-century Italy. She did not travel, except to local shrines, there is no evidence she gathered with other authors for discussions, and there is no record of her even attending meetings held in academies outside. In the late Middle Ages and early Renaissance era in Italy, women were largely just home makers. Many women who wanted to pursue knowledge either had to be of elite standing, enter convents, or become courtesans. Those were essentially the smart way women used to avoid the familial life. Women were normally not a part of political conversations and had to be extraordinary to be fully recognized in literature. Although Lucrezia was one of the best recognized female writers of the time, some of her near-contemporaries included Christine de Pizan , Moderata Fonte , Arcangela Tarabotti and Veronica Franco. This genre was traditionally limited to male-authors and featured male characters; however Arcadia Felice explores love and eroticism as a plot complication instead of a resolution. Marinella was a polished writer in many genres. Her work ranged from philosophical commentaries on poetry to religious works, and drew heavily on a wide variety of sources including scientific and mythological works. In her lifetime, Marinella published 10 books; there were sometimes as much as 10 years of silence between her works, notably after her marriage to Girolamo Vacca between It also mounts an attack on men for exactly the same vices Passi had dared to accuse women of. She highlighted the fact that women were excluded from the political discussion in this time. In the work, she expresses a patriotic pride in Venice and singles out a Venetian version of the events of the Fourth Crusade, about which no contemporary Venetian documents evidently existed. According to her arguments, women ought to remain firmly in what I will anachronistically call the private sphere, leaving the world of politics and philosophy for men. Like many of her contemporaries, she uses the ideas of classic authors to make her arguments She argues in favor of sequestration for women, places the greatest value on the skills women use while managing a home and raising children, and locates all female virtue in the domestic arts. Descritto in ottava rima. Ove si spiegano le attioni, le astinenze e i miracoli di esso, Venice. Discorso di Lucrezia Marinella in due parti diviso, G , Venice. The University of Chicago Press, Descritta in prosa e in ottava rima, Venice. Descritto in ottava rima, Venice. Centre for Reformation and Renaissance Studies, Marinella dedicated The Nobility and Excellence of Women to another doctor and friend of her father Lucio Scarano who took a particular interest in her literary formation. At one point, he called her "The adornment of our century" and compared her to Greek poet Corinna. She was buried in the nearby parish church of S. Humanities And Social Sciences 64, no. Journal of the History of Science in Society 92, no. The nobility and excellence of women, and the defects and vices of men. University of Chicago Press. Caterina da Siena by Lucrezia Marinella Review by: Enrico; or Byzantium Conquered: University of Chicago Press pg. The Johns Hopkins University Press. Retrieved May 1, Essortationi alle donne et a gli altri se a loro saranno a grado di Lucretia Marinella:

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