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THE HISTORY OF SERBIA: POLITICAL  
AND ECCLESIASTICAL  
(*Prof. SEP dr. Georgios Nektarios At. Lois, Hellenic  
Open University, Patras, 2017*)

Having read *The History of Serbia: Political and Ecclesiastical* (original title in Greek: *ΙΣΤΟΡΙΑ ΤΗΣ ΣΕΡΒΙΑΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗ ΚΑΙ ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑΣΤΙΚΗ*) by Georgios Nektarios Lois, a lengthy academic endeavour built on extensive research, one cannot but feel that this is a title of great proportions. This monograph, although it is a specialized study of history of one nation, offers great, both broad and distinct, possibilities to explore the manners in which ecclesiastical and theological issues affect historical events and cause changes in the course of history.

In the introduction, the author confesses that it is a difficult and demanding endeavour when the researcher's aim is to record and present the history of one nation, particularly when the nation in question is the heroic people of Serbia, with its uniquely colourful and long history, full of glory and suffering. By noting that the history of Serbs began about 15 centuries ago, the author emphasises that it deserves close attention, requiring from its researcher to meticulously study and decipher all its sources, both medieval

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and newer, by equally devoting attention to the overall and individual histories.

This study demonstrates particular persistence in highlighting the uniqueness of the protagonists who managed, either with their individual or collective efforts and organization, to create the unity within the geopolitical space. In this sense, the academic efforts of Georgios Nektarios Lois encompass a wider civilizational scope by mapping a detailed and insightful journey through the centuries of one nation who has built national consciousness and spiritual unity.

This is necessary to mention as this consciousness, in various times in history, has brought them into verbal confrontation with the environs, whose composition often had the tendency to demonstrate destructive attitudes. However, the Serbian nation have showed, in all ways that they possess, an understanding of themselves and their own goals and abilities, which have lead them to face numerous predictable and unpredictable situations, resulting in both victories and difficulties.

It is necessary to emphasise that the theological interest in this book arises primarily from the theological dogmatic teaching expressed within brave and noble endurance of one ecclesiastical community. After this book, the reading of the ecclesiastical history of the Serbian nation becomes a living expression of the ways in which theological teaching does not remain a plain mind construction. This book develops it into a way of life, capable of providing the true meaning to historical events, with a strong spiritual pulse that is inherent to such events.

*The History of Serbia: Political and Ecclesiastical* opens the paths to other fields of academic research, such as ethnology and sociology, by shedding light on the sensitive issues and events, thus offering the possibility to consider theoretical problems with necessary objectivity guaranteed in the book contents dealing with the historical events, as well as with the figures that caused them to occur on the historical stage. Another thing that has to be emphasized is the merger of events with ethics of the people who caused them to happen, with all resulting effects, which together create a profound feeling of what it means to be a protagonist in history.



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