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**ВОСТОЧНАЯ ЕВРОПА
В ДРЕВНОСТИ
И СРЕДНЕВЕКОВЬЕ**

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DEVELOPMENT OF MEDIEVAL CITIES
IN THE BALKAN PENINSULA UNTIL THE END
OF THE 13TH CENTURY

In pre-Roman time the Balkan Peninsula was settled by a number of tribes with different levels of social development. These prehistoric tribes didn't know the urban way of life. Greek colonization mainly influenced the cultural development of communities that occupied the Adriatic coast. The Romans founded cities along the major roads and divided the Balkans into provinces (Cvijanović 2004. P. 2–22, 108–110). The process of romanization was very slow. After a period of blooming from the middle of the 2nd to the beginning of the 3rd century A.D., Roman forms of city autonomy started to gradually disappear. In the 4th and 5th centuries A.D. owners of large estates withdrew from overpopulated towns to their *villa rustica* and fortified palaces in their latifundias. During the Migration Age suburbs grew as they received refugees from the countryside. Contrary to urbanization process, there appeared a new tendency for ruralization. After the adoption of Christianity, new city quarters became centers of Christian cult. The Barbarian invasion led to a break in the development of urban life of Roman type. In Justinian's period (527–565) many towns were restored but they had another character.

At the time of Emperor Heraklios (610–641) the Byzantine Empire was practically in ruins, and could not defend its territory. The Balkans were temporarily abandoned, and by the second decade of the 7th century they had been overrun by the Slavs and the Avars. Several Slavic tribes reached Peloponnesus and inhabited the Balkan Peninsula permanently (Живковић 2002. P. 43–117). The Arabs appeared as a major new power in the Mediterranean. Following the trade routes Arabic geographers and historians reached the Balkan Peninsula, and left valuable records about towns and areas (Цвијановић 2009. P. 229–238). Ibn Rusta preserved a particularly beautiful description of Constantinople, as well as of a route to Thessaloniki and the Adriatic coast written by Harun ibn Jahja (Цвијановић 2007. P. 31–43; Ibn Rusta 1968. P. 119–132). Many

cities on the Balkans were ruined, while the main centers with more than 50 000 inhabitants, Constantinople and Thessaloniki, barely survived major sieges (Ćurčić 2010. P. 49–262). The prevalent form of building activity in the Balkans during the 7th and 8th centuries would seem to have been confined to rebuilding and adaptive work. Various aspects of urban survival have recently attracted the attention of historians and archaeologists. While a new understanding of cities during the 7th and 8th centuries is being formulated, the influence of countryside and ruralization of society are now recognized as factors that changed urban landscape.

After that period of great migrations and ethnic changes new urban centers were founded, and church organization developed (Живковић 2004. P. 85–194). During the 9th and the 10th centuries new states appeared on the Balkan Peninsula: in Bulgaria, Croatia, and Serbian lands (Raška or Serbia, Pagania, Doclea, Travounia, Zachlounilia, Conavla). Those states cooperated with the Byzantine Empire. Some urban centers were renewed in this period, and many new cities started to emerge. Natural-geographic and political-strategic conditions influenced the process of urbanization, and so did the factor of discontinuity or continuity of antique cities and cult places. During the period from the 11th to the middle of the 13th century major changes in the political and cultural life of the Balkans occurred. The region was under control of the Byzantium again. Mining contributed to the development of new towns. The growth of population also affected the process. Belgrade and Braničevo were the main fortresses on the Danube frontier of the Byzantine Empire, and they were rebuilt on the locations of older, abandoned antique settlements. Episcopal seats of those two cities were renewed at the places of former antique temples.

During the Crusades, famous Arabic geographer Al-Idrisi wrote his book at the court of King Rogere II of Sicily and listed all the main routes and cities of the Balkans (Al-Idrisi 1989. P. 769, 792–795, 887). One route of the crusaders went along the eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea, and another through the mouth of Sava into Danube near Belgrade, where the army crossed the river; then the troops landed in Braničevo to continue their journey to the Holy Land.

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ТОРЧЕСК – ГОРОДСКОЙ ЦЕНТР ДРЕВНЕРУССКОГО ПОРОСЬЯ

Территория Поросья, ограниченная с севера р. Стугной, а с юга р. Росью, была заселена еще восточными славянами, но с усилением натиска печенегов во второй половине X в. эта область опустела. Жизнь здесь возобновилась лишь к середине XI в., когда в целях защиты от кочевников стала возводиться линия оборонительных укреплений, одним из которых стал Торческ (Торць, Торцьскъ). Он располагался в южной части Перепетова поля, где кочевали «свои поганые» – торческие племена, к середине XII в. вошедшие в союз черных клобуков – конфедератов Киевского княжества.

Торческ впервые упомянут в «Поучении Владимира Мономаха», в рассказе о событиях 1086–1087 гг. (ПСРЛ. Т. 1. Стб. 249). Под 1096 г. упоминается в связи с приходом под его стены половцев (Там же. Стб. 218). В 1161 г. в городе был учре-