

not answer) whether these changes represent a fundamental movement away from the reform path of the late 1960s, or possibly even the end of the NEM. Another question, not posed by the author, is to what extent recentralization has been primarily a response to severe internal economic and political pressures, external economic disturbances (inflation, deteriorating terms of trade, Western recession), or political (and more recently, economic) pressures from the East. An answer to this question might help in evaluating the prospects for the "reform" to get back on course if and when the external economic environment improves.

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VIAGGIO IN DALMAZIA, I, II (1774). By *Alberto Fortis*. Munich and Sarajevo: Verlag Otto Sagner and Izdavačko preduzeće "Veselin Masleša," 1974. 486 pp. DM 72.

It is most appropriate that *Viaggio in Dalmazia* by Alberto Fortis was republished in the bicentennial year of its original appearance. The book describes the travels through Dalmatia of the Venetian abbot and scholar in a clear and systematic way. Fortis's trips took him from Zadar in the north to Neretva in the south, through parts of the rugged Dalmatian hinterland, and to some of the main offshore islands. His descriptions and remarks are a sheer delight to read and they offer an immense wealth of information on numerous topics. An open-minded and sharp observer, Fortis fills his text with detailed geological descriptions; essays on the sea, shells, fish, and fishing; discussions of rivers and lakes, their positive and negative impacts on the environment; and so forth. More important, he explains vividly and intelligently the habits and ways of life of the local populations, dealing with such things as their dress, food, and housing. Of particular interest are the author's careful descriptions of archaeological sites, inscriptions, and monuments—many of them now lost—and his frequent references to ancient manuscripts that he inspected in various places.

Most fascinating, perhaps, is Fortis's attempt to go beyond mere description and listing of what he saw. In a clear and perceptive manner, he criticizes mercilessly all the negative things he observed, including administrative negligence and inefficiency, ecclesiastical narrow-mindedness and selfishness, economic underdevelopment and missed opportunities, and the backwardness and primitiveness of the people he encountered. But he does not stop there. Fortis goes beyond criticism to make suggestions for improvements in many areas. Some of his criticisms and suggestions—especially those concerning economics—have an uncannily modern sound. In this regard, and very applicable to our own times, are his complaints about the abuses and destruction of archaeological treasures and his marvelously progressive ideas for their conservation.

There is no doubt that specialists will find many naïve interpretations and erroneous statements in this work. Nevertheless, no other traveler of his day left such a rich mine of knowledge and such an abundant and accurate source of information about a relatively little known province. Fortis has done a truly remarkable, indeed extraordinary, job in this respect. He deserves our gratitude. Recognition is also due to Jovan Vuković of Sarajevo, who writes a short but useful introduction, and to Peter Rehder of Munich, who contributes a valuable—albeit too short—bibliography on Fortis.

Altogether, Fortis's book reflects a vigorous intellect, an excellent education, and an inquisitive mind. It is a joy to read and an unending source of discoveries.

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