

Urban physiognomy and political and economic developments in the city of Durrës (1200- 1501)

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Abstract

The city of Durrës during the middle Ages, despite extensive devastations caused by human factor and natural disasters, managed to maintain the continuity and physiognomy of a developed city of the Mediterranean region. Compared to many other cities of the Adriatic coast and broader, it had a more sustainable development, be it in the political-social field and in the urban architectural domain as well. More distinctive were the works carried out in the fortification of the city started by Anastas I. All these would not be possible without the establishment and functioning of the institutions of the city such as the council of the city, panel of judges, two magistrates and other credible institutions. The city had its stamp, emblem and statute thus witnessing the enhancement of political life. The development of the city was also promoted by its geographical position, located at the beginning of Via Egnatia that connected Western to Eastern Europe. The development of Durrës was also conditioned by a range of factors of various natures, which changed the city into an important centre of transit trade, competing with important centres of Eastern Adriatic.

Keywords: Durrës, institutions, council, urban, trade etc.

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