

# The history of the Balkan peninsula, from the earliest times to the present day



This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1922 edition. Excerpt: ... CHAPTER XIV THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE AT ITS HEIGHT Baviyid II (1481-1512), Mohammeds older son, succeeded Bayezid to the throne only after a sharp struggle with his brother Jem. He owed his victory to the Janissaries whom he bribed with a large donative. Plainly this professional corps was developing an inordinate sense of power and becoming the decisive factor in the succession. If this movement grew, producing the dragonbrood of an irresponsible militarism, the Ottoman empire was certain before long to face a situation fraught with ominous possibilities. Prince Jem, after his defeat, managed to escape to the Knights Prince Jem of St. John at Rhodes and with that step inaugurated a career thieves. marked by so many sudden and romantic changes as to engage the rapt attention of the west. How he was carried from Rhodes to France, and how, in the teeth of a solemn engagement to the contrary, he was held a prisoner on French soil to be ultimately transferred to Rome in order to be directly under the kindly eye of the Christian shepherd of Europe cannot be told here. Suffice it to point out that his fortunes have a certain historic interest in that they serve to illumine the political morality of the Latin West, for the shameful fact is that Jem was held in captivity by his various Christian masters solely for the purpose of squeezing money out of his brother, the reigning sultan, Bayezid. There is even some ground for the suspicion that Pope Alexander VI finally went the length of having Jem poisoned in order to collect the large lump sum offered by Bayezid to whoever would do him this friendly service. By historians generally Bayezid

has been listed among the The peaceful slothful sultans, which ranking can be accepted only with reserva- 0...

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