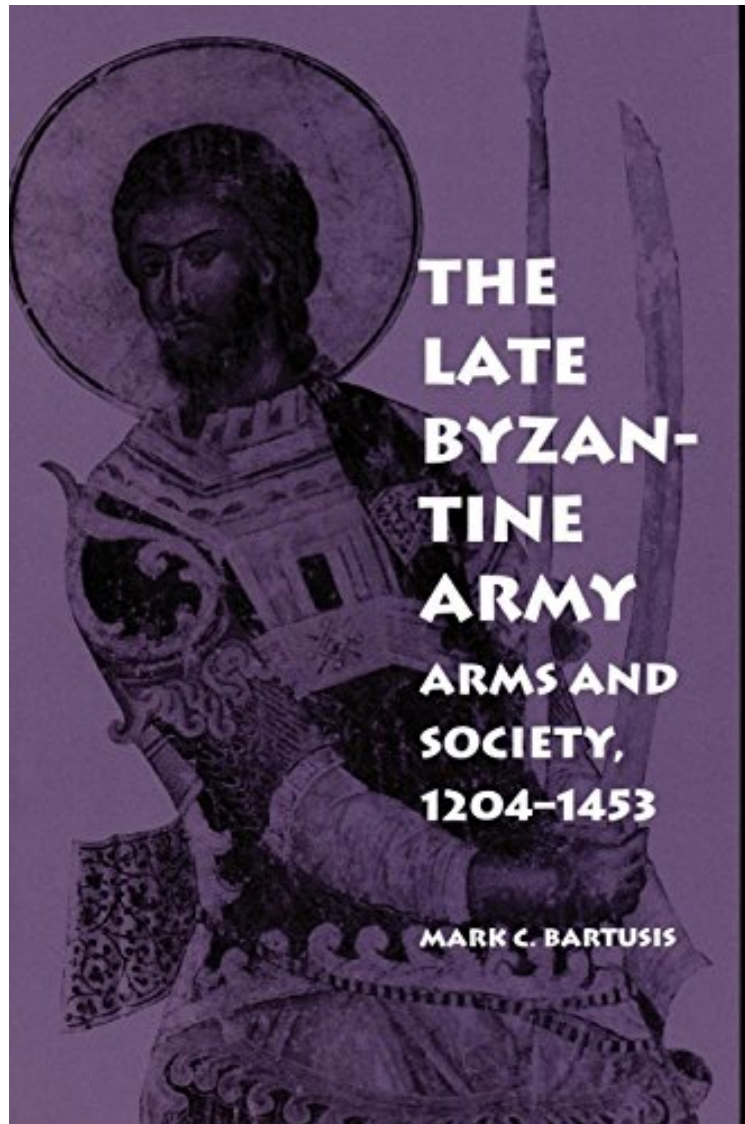


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## The Late Byzantine Army: Arms and Society, 1204-1453 (The Middle Ages Series)

Von Mark C. Bartusis

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**Von Mark C. Bartusis : The Late Byzantine Army: Arms and Society, 1204-1453 (The Middle Ages Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Late Byzantine Army: Arms and Society, 1204-1453 (The Middle Ages Series):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen2 von 2 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. The Late Byzantine Army by Mark C. BartusisVon Emmett StrodeMark C. Bartusis' book is a tightly written and well

organized scholarly exploration of the Byzantine army in the final two-and-a-half centuries of the empire. Divided into two sections, the first part of the work is an overview of the army's role in the political organization of the empire. The section concludes with a very well-written short essay on the fall of Constantinople. The second section is a technical discussion of the organization and financing of the army. Coming to the book as a general reader with an interest in Byzantine history, I found the glossary of court and military terms very helpful. The bibliography provides a wealth of possibilities for future reading. Bartusis' writing is scholarly but it is not stilted and overly-formal as is the work of many scholar-historians. "The Late Byzantine Army" provides the general reader and the reader of military history with a brief but well-drawn and understandable portrait of the subject.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Sehr gute berblicksdarstellung eines interessanten Themas Von Historiker Mark C. Bartusis bietet dem Leser eine sehr fundierte und detaillierte Schilderung des späten byzantinischen Militärs in der Zeit zwischen dem Vierten Kreuzzug und dem Fall Konstantinopels an die Osmanen. Dabei richtet sich das Augenmerk allerdings nicht vordringlich auf die militärischen Ereignisse dieser Zeit, sondern Thema des Buches sind die politische und soziale Bedeutung des Militärs innerhalb des mittelalterlichen byzantinischen Staates. Bartusis bietet eine Fülle von gut recherchierten Details und ordnet seine Untersuchungsschwerpunkte verständlich in die größeren historischen Zusammenhänge ein. Der Leser gewinnt einen guten Eindruck davon, wie die späten byzantinischen Streitkräfte aufgebaut waren, was ihre Rolle war und auch was es bedeutete, in der Spätphase des Byzantinischen Reiches Soldat zu sein. Die Darstellung lässt ebenfalls interessante Rückschlüsse zur relativen militärischen Stärke bzw. Schwäche des Reiches in dieser Zeit zu und bietet ein überzeugendes Bild der militärischen Möglichkeiten der letzten beiden oströmischen Herrscherdynastien. Das Buch ist in eingängigem und verständlichen Englisch geschrieben. Für Leser mit starkem Interesse an byzantinischer Geschichte, v.a. Militärgeschichte, ist dieses Buch sehr zu empfehlen.

**Kurzbeschreibung** The late Byzantine period was a time characterized by both civil strife and foreign invasion, framed by two cataclysmic events: the fall of Constantinople to the western Europeans in 1204 and again to the Ottoman Turks in 1453. Mark C. Bartusis here opens an extraordinary window on the Byzantine Empire during its last centuries by providing the first comprehensive treatment of the dying empire's military. Although the Byzantine army was highly visible, it was increasingly ineffective in preventing the incursion of western European crusaders into the Aegean, the advance of the Ottoman Turks into Europe, and the slow decline and eventual fall of the thousand-year Byzantine Empire. Using all the available Greek, western European, Slavic, and Turkish sources, Bartusis describes the evolution of the army both as an institution and as an instrument of imperial policy. He considers the army's size, organization, administration, and the varieties of soldiers, and he examines Byzantine feudalism and the army's impact on society and the economy. In its extensive use of soldier companies composed of foreign mercenaries, the Byzantine army had many parallels with those of western Europe; in the final analysis, Bartusis contends, the death of Byzantium was attributable more to a shrinking fiscal base than to any lack of creative military thinking on the part of its leaders.

**Pressestimmen** "An essential tool for comparative historians, Byzantinists, Balkanologists, historians of the later Crusades, medieval Islamic, especially Ottoman, and western European medieval and Renaissance history. Its publication reinforces the reputation of Bartusis as a foremost authority on many dimensions of late Byzantine institutions and the related social and economic context." --Walter Kaegi, "Journal of Military History" "An essential tool for comparative historians, Byzantinists, Balkanologists, historians of the later Crusades, medieval Islamic, especially Ottoman, and western European medieval and Renaissance history. Its publication reinforces the reputation of Bartusis as a foremost authority on many dimensions of late Byzantine institutions and the related social and economic context." Walter Kaegi, "Journal of Military History" "A History Book Club selection" "An essential tool for comparative historians, Byzantinists, Balkanologists, historians of the later Crusades, medieval Islamic, especially Ottoman, and western European medieval and Renaissance history. Its publication reinforces the reputation of Bartusis as a foremost authority on many dimensions of late Byzantine institutions and the related social and economic context." --Walter Kaegi, Journal of Military History

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