Enes Dedić

RADIVOJ KRISTIĆ OF THE KOTROMANIĆ LINEAGE — DYNASTIC POLITICS IN LATE MEDIEVAL BOSNIA

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Sarajevo, 2026.

In memory of my dear friend,

Anel Halilović



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PREFACE

I began researching the life and activities of Radivoj Kristić of the Kotromanić dynasty in 2017 as part of the individual research project *Radivoj Ostojić Kotromanić* at the Institute of History, University of Sarajevo. Studying the period of Radivoj Kristić's activity also revealed the need to shed light on several insufficiently explored aspects of late medieval Bosnian dynastic practice, including the definition of the rules and norms governing royal succession, as well as the very phenomenon of pretenders in Bosnia during this period. Examining Radivoj Kristić's political career within the broader context of late medieval Bosnian dynastic practice, and comparing his activities with those of other pretenders who emerged during the same period, shaped the concept of this monograph. Accordingly, the primary aim of this publication is, on the basis of both unpublished and published primary sources, as well as the achievements of previous historiography, to reconstruct the life and political career of Radivoj Kristić in its entirety while also defining the fundamental principles of dynastic politics in late medieval Bosnia.

For the purposes of this research, I consulted unpublished archival material preserved in Dubrovnik State Archives, the Vatican Apostolic Archive, the Hungarian National Archives, and Šibenik State Archives. Whether during visits to these archives or while obtaining digitized archival material, I encountered exceptionally helpful and accommodating staff who greatly facilitated access to the archival collections. I extend my sincere gratitude to all of them. I am likewise grateful to my colleagues at the Library of the Institute of History and to the staff of the Library of the Faculty of Philosophy,

University of Sarajevo, who were always willing to assist me in locating the scholarly literature necessary for this study. The reviewers of this volume made an invaluable contribution to the final form of this monograph. I owe my deepest gratitude to Professor Esad Kurtović for his constructive methodological guidance, which ultimately shaped my approach to this subject. I am especially grateful for his patience, willingness, enthusiasm, the tremendous energy he invested, and the considerable amount of his own time that he devoted to reading every source presented in this book and to identifying its shortcomings and methodological pitfalls. I am equally indebted to Dr. Srđan Rudić, an outstanding expert on this subject and on the history of late medieval Bosnia, whose advice, suggestions, and insightful observations significantly enriched this work. My sincere thanks also go to Dr. Elmedina Duranović for accepting the demanding responsibilities of editing this volume. Above all, I owe my greatest gratitude to my family for their understanding and unwavering support throughout the preparation of this book. I am especially grateful to my wife, Anela Dedić, for selflessly undertaking the exceptionally demanding task of translating the original manuscript of this monograph from Bosnian into English. I already owe her more than I can express, thank you once again for yet another translation. Whenever I needed access to publications that were difficult to obtain, I turned to my colleagues Dejan Zadro, Nedim Rabić, Dženan Dautović, Milan Vojnović, and Milomir Maksimović. I am sincerely grateful to each of them for their generous assistance. I would also like to thank my colleagues at the Institute of History for their support throughout the writing of this book. My gratitude extends to the Director of the Institute of History, Dr. Sedad Bešlija, for securing the financial support necessary for the publication of this volume. I am also deeply grateful to Amra Mekić, who was responsible for the technical

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Sarajevo, July 2026