## CONTENTS

	List of Illustrations	ix
	Abbreviations	xiii
	Acknowledgments	xvii
	Introduction	xix
I.	BACKGROUND: FROM LATE ANTIQUITY TO THE	
	MIDDLE AGES	1
	Restructuring the Empire: The Seventh Century	1
	Reconsolidation: The Ninth and Tenth Centuries	11
II.	DECENTRALIZATION AND "FEUDALIZATION" OF THE	
	BYZANTINE STATE	24
	Decentralization	31
	Urban Evolution in the Provinces: Archaeological and Literary Evidence	31
	Urban Evolution in the Provinces: Arts and Crafts	39
	Urban Economy and Institutions	46
	"Feudalization" of the Byzantine Social Structure	56
	The Nature of the Byzantine Estate	56
	The Nature of the Byzantine Nobility	62
	Changes in the Social Character of the Byzantine	
	Aristocracy	69
	Changes in the Bureaucracy	70
III.	POPULAR AND ARISTOCRATIC CULTURAL TRENDS	74
	Popular Tendencies in Byzantine Society	74
	Changes in the Daily Regime: Dress, Diet, and	
	Diversion	74

viii Contents

	Popular Elements in Literature	83
	Popular Features in Religious Life	86
	The "Aristocratization" of Culture	99
	The Byzantine Family	99
	Search for Legitimacy: The Importance of Lineage	102
	The Creation of an Aristocratic Ideal	104
	Image of the Ideal Ruler	110
	Epitome of Aristocracy: Digenis Akritas	117
IV.	THE PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE	120
	The Educational System	121
	Academic Institutions	121
	Academic Politics	126
	Intellectuals in Society	130
	The Assimilation of the Classical Tradition	133
	Byzantium and the Authors of Antiquity	133
	The Byzantine Reading of Classical Literature	138
	Art and Antiquity	141
	Law	145
	Byzantine Science	148
	Intimations of Rationalism: Theology and Ideology	158
	Rationalism and the Imperial Ideal	163
V.	BYZANTIUM AND ALIEN CULTURES	167
	Traditional Attitudes Toward "Barbarians"	167
	Contact with Alien Cultures: The Frontier Zone	170
	Contact with Alien Cultures: The Center	172
	Breakdown of Some of the Traditional Barriers	177
	Effects of Foreign Influence	180
	Unbreachable Barriers	185
VI.	MAN IN LITERATURE AND ART	197
	Artist, Audience, and Object	197
	From the Ideal to the Ordinary	206
	Abstraction to Naturalism	210
	Impersonal to Personal	220
	Conclusion	231
	Appendix: Texts	235
	Index	267