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Byzantium and Migration: An Introduction

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Abstract:

Byzantium, the Roman Empire of Constantinople, represents in fact an imperial state and a culture that emerged through migration, the migration of an imperial city and its political culture from Rome to Constantinople, the New Rome. This foundational aspect of the phenomenon's role in the so-called Byzantine Empire is probably reason enough to underline the significance of migration-research for Byzantine history. In this introductory paper I shall seek to sketch out how the medieval East Roman state shaped and was shaped by migration and mobility in the broader geopolitical sphere of the Byzantine world between the fall of Rome and the fall of New Rome.