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This is the first of a two-volume set aimed at applying methodologies drawn from the history of globalization to cities of the Mediterranean of the long Middle Ages. The essays explore various aspects of ethno-religious diversity and phenomena related to intercultural relations and cultural production. The editors note that such engagements tended not to give rise to new “integrated” identities, but rather were conducive to the establishment of enclaves within Mediterranean “world-cities.” Nevertheless, these constitute a key aspect of the development of modern identities and the construction or perception of “heritage.” The essays here are based on papers given at the 2018 Italian Association of Urban History conference held in Genoa and include contributions by scholars based in North America, Europe and Turkey. Overall, there is a strong focus on Italy, although Ottoman lands and the Iberian Peninsula are also represented. These include papers of varying methodological and disciplinary approaches, including cultural history, art history, and economic, legal and literary history. As to be expected from a conference proceedings, there is not a single, unifying argument to the essays; rather, each presents case-studies for the larger themes noted above. The book is well-produced and edited with a generous allotment of black and white images. Scholars will find the individual chapters useful for research and perhaps for assigning to upper-level or graduate seminars.
# Table of Contents

Foreword: Towards New Developments in Making Urban History: xi
- Rosa Tamborrino

Mediterranean Cities as Cultural Crossroads: An Introduction: 1
- Marco Folin and Antonio Musarra

## Part 1: The Medieval City as a Cultural Crossroad: 9

Chapter 1. "A Dragon with Nine Heads": The Changing Reputation of Crusader Acre, c. 1191–c. 1291: 11
- Jan Vandeburie

- Tomasz Borowski

Chapter 3. Economic Migrants or Commuters?: A Note on the Crews of Genoese Galleys in the Medieval Mediterranean, 14th–15th Centuries: 62
- Antonio Musarra

Chapter 4. The Cultural Transformation of Genoese Galata from the Byzantine to the Ottoman Rule and its Reflection on the Church of San Domenico: 76
- Seda Sicimoğlu Yenikler


Chapter 5. Integrating the Foreigner: The Strategy of Inclusion in Renaissance Venice: 101
- Kiril Petkov

Chapter 6. Polytopos in Early Modern Venetian Imagery: 117
- Letha Ch’ien

Chapter 7. Neighbourhoods’ Surveillance of Margins: Negotiating Limits of Social Exclusion in Early Modern Istanbul (1530s–1590s): 131
- Faika Çelik

Chapter 8. Urban Ethnic Encounters: A Glimpse on the Different Ethnic Communities Living in an Istanbul Neighbourhood, the Mahalle-i Mâ’mûre, in the Late 16th Century: 143
- Emine Öztaner

## Part 3: Mediators, Translators, Interpreters: 163

Chapter 9. The Hero of Two Worlds: Politics, Archeology and Passion for the Antique in the "Cultural Mediation" of Cyriac of Ancona between East and West, with a Note on the Birth of Venus by Botticelli: 165
- Giacomo Montanari

Chapter 10. Spanish Rome and Roman Spain: Reconstructing the Past of Rome and Cordova in Early Modern Rome: 187
- Marta Albalá Pelegrín

- Stefano Gulizia

Chapter 12. Migration and the Continuity of a City: Lluis Pons d’Icart’s Libro de las grandezas de Tarragona (1572): 215
- Javier Patiño Loira

Chapter 13. Genoa in the Travel Diaries of Jehan Lhermite (1587) and Cesare Magalotti (1625): A City from "Paradise on Earth" to "Fury of Mars": 232-45
- Margarita Ana Vázquez Manassero