

Political factions in 14th cent. Byzantium: a sample (J. Preiser-Kapeller)

- The 14th century in Byzantium was a time of both exogenous pressure and internal conflict within the elite, starting with the civil wars between the factions of the Emperor Andronikos II Palaiologos and his grandson Andronikos III in the years 1321-1328. In order to analyse the structure and composition of these factions, on the basis of both diplomatic and narrative sources, we created a network model of the "dynatoi", the most powerful noblemen for the period from 1315 to 1321, with 139 nodes and 381 ties (of family connections, allegiance and alliance).
- The most striking characteristic of this network are two centres of gravity; these are the two emperors who were competing for power. Already in the years before the outbreak of this conflict, noble loyalties started to cluster around the two protagonists. In order to detect structural "fault lines", we applied the "Newman algorithm", which tries to identify clusters of nodes which are more closely connected among each other than with the rest of the network. This produced a fragmentation of the network into six clusters of different size, the largest being the ones centred on Andronikos II and on Andronikos III. In addition, also the reminding imperial clan of the Palaiologoi constitutes a cluster as well as the members of the powerful families of Kaballarios, Tornikes and Metochites. The significance of kinship groups for the constitution of factions as well as structural differences between them are equally highlighted if we inspect the clusters of Andronikos II and of Andronikos III, to which we also applied the Newman algorithm (Newman, 2010). In the "camp" of the younger Emperor, one detects dense sub-clusters of several powerful noble houses. The cohesion among the sub-clusters in the cluster of Andronikos II on the contrast is less pronounced, with nodes loosely grouped around representatives of some noble houses. The higher cohesion within the cluster of Andronikos III can also be quantified in measures such as network density and especially clustering coefficient (the probability that two nodes connected with one node are also connected themselves). Of the other four clusters in the entire network, members of the Palaiologoi in the civil war could be found on both sides, while the smaller clans largely sided with Andronikos II. Still, the younger Andronikos in the end defeated his grandfather in 1328.
- From a structural point of view, Andronikos III's close-knit coalition of dense clusters in the end proved more effective than the more loosely connected faction of Andronikos II; there soon signs of disintegration became obvious, with individuals and groups switching sides. These differences in cohesion are also visible from a spatial perspective: if we map the distribution of loyalties among the centres of the empire and their dynamics, we observe that Andronikos III was able to maintain the allegiance of the centres in Thrace outside Constantinople, the region also attributed to him during the short-living agreement with his grandfather in the treaty of Rhegion in 1321. At the same time, the loyalty of several important cities in the regions assigned to Andronikos II in Macedonia, especially also in the second important centre of the empire, Thessalonike, remained unstable, with several of them opening their doors to the younger Palaiologos. Along similar lines, we will analyse further conflicts within 14th cent. Byzantium.

Prokepios Michael Philanthropenos Dragon Nikephoros Balsamon Ioannes Philanthropeno's Manuel Trimiskes Ioannes Grammatas Ioannes Angelos Alexios Dukas Hilanthropenos Ioannes Szimiskes Theodoms Aaron Theodoros Padiates Georgios Dukopulos Nikolaos Pikrogelastes Georgios Sarantennies Meliteniotes Konstantinos Akropolites Petros Dukopulos Demetrios Kontenos Manuel Dukas Komnenos Laskaris Tryphon Kedrenos Markos Kaballarios Michael Kaballarios Sophianos Nikephoros Chumnos Joannes Kommenos Chumnos Palaiologos Andronikos Palaiologos Anol OGOS arantenos Georgios Kaballarios Manuel Blachernites Ioannes Dukas Masgidas Thomas Pergamenos Pharisaios Meliteniotes Georgios Strategos Konstantinos Palaiologos Basileios Kaballarios loannes Chumnos getos Balaiologos El Komnenos Branas Palaiologos Georgios Chumos Ioannes Kaballarios Georgios Atuentes Monomachos Leon KalegnoAnterios Kaballarios Manuel Palaiologo Michael Senacheirim Monomachos Bardas Kaballarios loannes I Demetrios Angelos Palaiologos odoros Palaiologostoannes Palaiologos Ioannes Triakontaphyllos Georgios Oinaiotes Theodoros Babuskomites loannes Mygiares Manuel KaligopulosKonstantinosPergamenos ANNA PALAIOLOGINA Demetrios Kapasilas Disypatos Manuel Meliteniotes ANDRONIKOS ID AL AIOLOGO Seconoros Palaiologos Koystantigos Dukas Palaiologos Georgios Chatzikes Nikolaos Zvrakes **Demetrios** Deblitzenos Konstantinos Achyraites Stephanos Syropulos Michael Chamaidrakon Michael Atzymes loannes Tarchaneiotes Alexios Patalologos Sultagos Alexios Patalologos Alexios Angelos Metochites ANDROUNOS Patalologos Michael Laskaris Metochites Demetrios Angelos Metochites Georgios Andronik Sullotes GeorgiosTrullenos Andronikos Philommates Demetrios Kalamanos Glykas/ Theodoros Lykopulos Konstantinos Kikalas Michael Kallikrenites mnenos Demetrios Andelos Metochites Ioannes Polemianiteannes Sarantenastrios Palatologos TATIARes Palaiologos Philanthropenos Komnenos Theodoros Patrikiotes Alexios Phylliates **Michael** Tornikes Manuel Tarchaneiotes Isaakios Komnenes Dukas Tornikes Kasandrenos loannes Orestes Leon Chrysoberges Dukes Sarantenos Tamplakon Andronikos Palaiologos Komnenos Asandronikos Kantakuzenos Kalothetos Michael Neskaisareites IOANNES KANTAKUZENOS Nikolaos Theologites Konstantinos Palaiologos Tornikės Andronikos Komnenos Dukas Palaiologos Komnenos Asanes Martinos Nikephipeshoros Kantakuzenos Alexios Raul Joannes Komnenos Synadenos Ioannes Kanabures **loannes** Ramatas Manuel Kompenos RauLAsanes Kompenos Tarchaneiotes Dukas Kantakuzenos Theodoros Rapantrites Joannes Synadenos Konstantinos Palaiologos Asanes Manuel Caskaris Isaakios Palaiologos Asanes Manuel Senachereim Konstantinos Kunales Isaakios Komnenos Raul Laskaris Michael Staurakios Kalamanos Laskaris Theodoros Dukas Synadenos Branas

Visualisation of the network model of the most important noblemen and functionaries of the Byzantine Empire, connected through ties of kinship, allegiance and alliance for the period 1315-1321 (J. Preiser-Kapeller, 2014)



The polarisation of the network of the dynatoi between Emperor Andronikos II and his grandson Andronikos II; nodes are sized according to their number of links (= "degree"; J. Preiser-Kapeller, 2014)



Identification of clusters in the network of the dynatoi: clusters of Andronikos II (light blue), Andronikos III (dark blue), the Palaiologoi (dark green), Kaballarioi (yellow), Tornikes (light green) and Metochites (red) (J. Preiser-Kapeller, 2014)



Identification of sub-clusters in the coalition of Andronikos II with the help of the Newman-algorithm (J. Preiser-Kapeller, 2014)



Identification of sub-clusters in the coalition of Andronikos III with the help of the Newman-algorithm (J. Preiser-Kapeller, 2014)

Quantitative analysis of the network and the six clusters

| Cluster | Number of nodes | Density | Path length | Clustering Coefficient | Degree centralisation | Betweenness centralisation |
|----------------|-----------------|---------|-------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Andronikos II | 67 | 0.041 | 1.985 | 0.378 | 0.973 | 0.982 |
| Andronikos III | 37 | 0.099 | 2.204 | 0.524 | 0.747 | 0.82 |
| Palaiologoi | 16 | 0.75 | 1.283 | 0.83 | 0.133 | 0.253 |
| Tornikes | 6 | 0.73 | 1.267 | 0.767 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| Metochites | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Kaballarios | 8 | 0.64 | 1.357 | 0.782 | 0.476 | 0.367 |
| Total network | 139 | 0.039 | 2.183 | 0.544 | 0.8 | 0.83 |



The distribution of loyalties to Andronikos II and Andronikos III among the cities of the Byzantine Empire, 1321-1328 (J. Preiser-Kapeller, 2014)