



**Faculty of Arts  
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# **Byzantine – German Relations (962-1059 A.D.)**

**A Master Thesis in Medieval History**

**By**

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**Abstract**

Otto I (936-973) King of Germany made his way to Rome and was crowned as an emperor by pope John XII (955-964 )on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 962. Otto I also made his way to southern Italy to impose his control on the Byzantine Themes. since this time the conflict between the Byzantine empire and Germany started and continued to the last of the first half of the eleventh Century.

Because of all these interrelated events I selected the subject of the study: “**Byzantine – German Relations 962–1059 A.D.**”; for this period witnessed two important events:

- 1- The coronation of Otto I as an emperor by Pope John XII at Rome in 962, this event that led to several conflicts between Byzantium and Germany in southern Italy .
- 2- The second event is “Melfi Manifesto” in 1059, that was announced by Pope Nicholas II (1058-1061), who gave the right to the Normans in controlling the Byzantine lands in southern Italy in return for defending the papacy against the German emperors and the Roman nobles in Rome.

Byzantine-German relations in the tenth and the eleventh Centuries were represented not only in military battles in southern Italy, but also in establishing cultural, artistic, religious and commercial relations.

The study is divided into four chapters preceded by a study about the most important sources of the study , followed by an introduction and finally the conclusion , the maps , the appendices and the references . The introduction is entitled: “***Byzantine–German relations before 962 A.D***”. It discusses Byzantine –German relations in the fifth and the sixth decades of tenth Century through the embassies between the two sides. It also discusses the emergency of the idea of the empire according to the Germans .

The first chapter is entitled: “***German greeds in Italy and Byzantine reaction 962-973 A.D***”. It discusses the coronation of Otto I as an emperor

in Rome 962, showing the causes and the results , also it shed light on Otto's I attacks on southern Italy from 966 to 970, and shows the role of the embassies between the two sides especially the embassy of Liudprand of Cremona to Constantinople in 968, and the marriage of Otto II to Theophano.

The second chapter is entitled: “*The Decline of the Byzantine and the German authorities in Italy 980-1014 A.D.*”. it discusses the attacks of Otto II on the Byzantine themes of southern Italy from 980 to 982, that led him to his defeat by the Muslims of Sicily in Stilo in 982. It also shows Otto's III efforts to restore the glory of the Roman empire in the West, these efforts that led to many unrests that influenced the German possessions. This chapter also shows the Lombard's revolutions, that arose in Italy against Byzantium and Germany.

The third chapter is entitled: “*The Normans between the Byzantine and the Germans in southern Italy 1017-1059 A.D.*”. It discusses the appearance of the Norman forces in southern Italy and their alliance with Byzantium and Germany in the first quarter of the eleventh Century .Also it discusses the increasing power of the Normans and the alliance of the papacy, Germany and Byzantium against them and the defeat of this alliance by the Normans in the battle of Civitate in 1053. This defeat led to weaken the relationships between the East and the West. This turn led the papacy to depend on the Normans as a new ally against Germany and Byzantium in 1059.

The fourth chapter is entitled: “*The Cultural relations between Byzantium and Germany*”. It discusses the commercial relations between the two sides as well as the cultural relations and the wide spread of the Greek language in Germany. The tools of art also were transferred from Byzantium to Germany as pictures, curved ivories and silken textiles .This chapter was concluded by referring to the view of both the Byzantines and the Germans to each other.