During the rise of national movements in Europe, debates arose about history and the respective historical narratives, which aimed at establishing new political orders. At the same time the meaning and significance of the Byzantine millennium was discussed as a possible reference point for imagining and constructing new collective and national identities. Our research group “The Legacies of Byzantium” investigates the impact and reception of Byzantine history and culture in 19th and 20th century Europe and its usage as an argument. The focus of the conference lies on Eastern and Southeastern Europe as a political, cultural and religious bridge between Orient and Occident. Therefore, we would like to discuss in which way scientific, ecclesiastical and political elites dealt with (pseudo-)Byzantine items, narratives, and paradigms in various contexts in order to strengthen their own identity, to stage or legitimize their power as well as to justify certain political strategies.

Thursday, March 2nd
Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum, Vortragssaal im Kurfürstlichen Schloss

17.30 Registration
18.00 Evening Lecture
Günter Prinzing, Mainz
Byzantium, the Rus’ and the So Called „Family of Rulers”

Reception

Friday, March 3rd
Leibniz-Institut für Europäische Geschichte, Konferenzzraum
9.00
Jan Kusber, Mainz
Imagining Byzantium: an Introduction

History and Histories
– Byzantine Elements in Historiographical Narratives und Discourses
9.15
Hans-Christian Maner, Mainz
„Byzance après Byzance“– Nicolae Iorgas Concept and Its Aftermath

10.00
Milena Repajić, Belgrade
George Ostrogorsky’s Perception of History and Byzantium in Serbian "National" Historiography: Between Otherness and Orthodoxy

10.45-11.15 Coffee Break

11.15
Dimitrios Stamatopoulos, Thessaloniki
The Western Byzantium of Konstantinos Paparrigopoulos

12.00
Przemysław Marčiniak, Katowice
Oriental and Exotic - Constructions of Byzantinism in the 19th Century Historiography

12.45-14.00 Lunch

Defence or Decadence?
– Reception of Byzantium within Ecclesiastical Historiography
14.00
Dimitrios Moschos, Athens
Approaching the Byzantine Past in the Historical Work of Dositheos of Jerusalem and Meletios of Athens
14.45
Christina Hadjiafxenti, Mainz
Byzantium in the Greek Church Historiography of the 19th Century: Between German Protestant Influence and Greek Orthodox Confession

15.30-16.00 Coffee Break

16.00
Mihai-D. Grigore, Mainz
Byzantium for Priests. Image of Byzantium in Romanian Theological Schoolbooks of the Late 20th Century
16.45
Kirill Maksimovich, Frankfurt/Main
Collection of Byzantine Canon Law ("Kniga pravil", 1839) as a Legal Basis of the Russian Orthodox Church of the 19th-20th Centuries: Paradoxes, Problems and Perspectives

17.30-17.45 Small Break

17.45
Alena Alshanskaya, Mainz
The Reception of "Byzantium" in the Russian Church Historiography at the Late Imperial Period

19.00 Dinner

Saturday, March 4th
Leibniz-Institut für Europäische Geschichte, Konferenzraum

Heirs, Empires, Nations
– „Byzantium“ as an Argument for Nation-Builders
9.00
Lora Gerd, Saint Petersburg
Russian Imperial Policy in the Orthodox East and Its Relation to Byzantine Studies
9.45
Andrii Domanovskyi, Kharkiv
The Perception of Byzantium in the Context of Modern Ukrainian Nation Building (Second Half of the Eighteenth to Early Twentieth Century): from Hryhorii Skovoroda through Taras Shevchenko to Mykhailo Hrushevsky

10.30-11.00 Coffee Break

11.00
Andreas Gietzen, Mainz
Bad Byzantines – A Historical Narrative in the Liberal Conception of Vladimir Jovanović

11.45
Stefan Rohdewald, Gießen
Byzantine "Slavery" as Postcolonial Imagination: "Foreign" Rulers of a "Pure" Bulgarian Nation (1850–1930)

12.30 Concluding Discussion

13.00 Farewell

Contact and Information
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