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**HRELYO OHMUCHEVICH - BETWEEN BYZANTIUM AND SERBIA
(IN SEARCH FOR POLITICAL AUTONOMY)**

(Summary)

The separation of Hrelyo from the Serbian crown in the end of the 30ies of XIV century is symptomatic. Being far enough out of sight of Stephan Dushan, Hrelyo, even if only for about two years, succeeded to create his own independent domain. His military potentials and skills turned him into a preferred partner and an ally for his Byzantine neighbors. Hrelyo's success is indicative of Dushan's powers in Eastern Macedonia. The fact that the Serbian ruler didn't react immediately to these events suggests that in the newly conquered territories different Serbian rulers close to the rulers. family were predominant. That was what enabled Hrelyo to set his two year long rule with Strumitsa as capital. Having in mind the danger, Stephen Dushan seized the first opportunity to oppose the separatist tendencies. He used his connections with Ioan Kantakuzin to get the better of Hrelyo. The aggressive purposefulness of Dushan.s policy predestined Hrelyo's fate. Nemanich Serbia was on the threshold of her political zenith and in 1346 turned into a kingdom. This .growth. of the state didn't allow the existence of an obvious separatism, and Hrelyo turned into a spokesman of exactly such political tendencies.