

the dwellers on this coast, Liburnians, Narentines, Uscocks, Morlachs, have become almost synonymous with "pirate". Whoever governed the seaboard held the traffic of the Adriatic at his mercy, as Rome first, and then Byzantium and then Venice, the prime factors, found to their cost. The history of Dalmatia may therefore be described as one long struggle for the mastery of the coast fringe and the islands; and we must draw a broad distinction between seaboard Dalmatia and mainland Dalmatia, which had relatively little weight, though the possession of it, and supremacy in it, were not without their influence on the holders of the seashore cities and islands, and explain the position and importance of the second set of factors in Dalmatian history, the Slavs, the Hungarians, the Bosniacs and the Turks. It is this narrow strip of mainland, always exposed to influences from east and west, never quite one nor quite the other, never free from seaborne Latin pressure, nor from Slav, Magyar and Turkish invasion from beyond the Dinaric crest, that renders the history of Dalmatia so complicated and so interesting; there is, as sometimes happens in the three-colour process of illustration, a frequent "overlapping" of colour.

The governing physical feature of mainland