

II

HISTORY

THE history of this narrow strip of land lying between the mountains and the sea is governed by its geography, and may be considered, in its widest aspect, as the history of two groups of people, each affecting the other to a considerable extent, the seaboard group, by far the more important, and the mainland group. Both present a series of changes in their component parts as Greeks, Romans, Byzantines and Venetians held sway on the coast, and Avars, Croats, Hungarians and Turks dominated the mainland.

Of prehistoric man, man of the Stone Age, traces are said to have been found in the islands; but we only come to sure ground with the Liburnians settled round Zara, and the Illyrians between the Kerka and the Narenta, both of whom took at once to piracy on the irresistible suggestion