

Hellenic origin. Curzola, like Lesina, became completely Slav. The town, perched on its strong peninsula site, offered a courageous resistance to the victorious Doge Pietro Orseolo II. in 998, but, exposed to the piratical harrying of the Narentines and Almissaners under Hungarian protection, it willingly admitted the Venetians in 1129. The Republic appointed the Zorzi family as quasi-hereditary Lords of Curzola, to hold it for S. Marco; and the Zorzi coat, argent, a fesse gules, is said to cant on one of the family achievements, when a Zorzi, defending the town against a pirate onslaught, tore a bloody bandage from his wound and waved it in place of the standard he had lost. Marco Polo, a native of Curzola, and Andrea Dandolo, the Great Doge and historian of Venice, were both present at the sea-fight off Curzola, when Genoa defeated Venice and Marco Polo was taken prisoner, while Dandolo committed suicide to escape a similar fate. Under Venetian rule Curzola flourished. It was carefully watched and fostered as the precious outpost of Venice against the Republic of Ragusa, whose position so near the mouth of the Adriatic was a standing menace to the freedom of those seas for Venetian commerce. In the middle of the eighteenth century Venice