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History-writing as a “Bulwark against the Passage of Time:” The Middle Byzantine World through the Eyes of Michael Psellos, Anna Komnene, and John Kinnamos.



This thesis analyzes the histories of three different historians—Michael Psellos, Anna Komnene, and John Kinnamos—who wrote during the Middle Byzantine period (843-1204.) My research focuses on the motivations for writing these histories, the sources used to craft them, and finally, the use of classical references and devices throughout these histories and what effect they had on the text. Throughout the thesis, I argue that these three historians used their history-writing as a platform to vocalize certain perspectives and interpretations of the past, which they could then use for personal political gain or stability.