

# Contents

		viii
	Acknowledgements	viii
	Abbreviations	ix
	Introduction	1
	Manuel II Palaiologos: A Short Biography and an Overview of the Historical Context	1
	Aims of the Present Study	5
	Structure	7
	Sources	8
	Theoretical Framework	9
	Previous Scholarship	11
	<b>Part I Dissent and Consent</b>	
1	Voices of Dissent: Preaching and Negotiating Authority	19
	Organisation of the Ecclesiastics' Group	21
	Major Political and Social Themes in the Ecclesiastics' Writings	31
	Conclusion	54
2	Voices of Consent: Imperial Rhetoricians, <i>Theatra</i> and Patronage	58
	<i>Theatra</i> and Imperial Involvement	59
	Profile and Organisation of the Rhetoricians	64
	Connections among the Members of the Literary Court	68
	The Rhetorical Landscape in the Late Palaiologan Period	75
	Main Themes in the Rhetoricians' Writings	79
	Conclusion	100



**Part II Other Voices, Other Approaches: Manuel II's Political Writings**

Introduction to Part II	105
Further Methodological Considerations	105
An Overview of the Emperor's Rhetorical oeuvre	108
The Emperor's Political Texts	111
3 The Deliberative Voice: <i>The Dialogue with the Empress-Mother on Marriage</i>	113
Contents and Structure	115
Genre	116
Constructing Dialogic Authority	117
Conclusion	123
4 The Didactic Voice: <i>The Foundations of an Imperial Education</i>	124
Context of Production	126
Contents and Structure	128
Genre	135
Authorial Voice	149
Conclusion	159
5 The Didactic Voice: <i>The Orations (Seven Ethico-Political Orations)</i>	161
The Dramatic Setting	163
The Contents of the <i>Orations</i>	165
Major Themes in the <i>Orations</i>	165
The <i>Orations</i> : Summary and Form	172
Between Teaching and Preaching: Constructing the Genre of the <i>Orations</i>	183
Authorial Voice: Teaching the Son and Admonishing the Emperor	189
Conclusion	196
6 The Narrative Voice: <i>The Funeral Oration on His Brother Theodore, Despot of Morea</i>	199
Contexts of Production	200
The Rhetorical Template and the Compositional Structure of the <i>Funeral Oration</i>	203
The Narrator and the Narrative	209
Authorial Voice	233
Conclusion	234
7 Towards a Renewed Vision of Imperial Authority	237
Society and Social 'Classes'	240
Enemies and Allies	241



Markers of Byzantine Identity	244
Renewal of Imperial Ideology in Manuel's Texts	246
Manuel II's Imperial Vision and Style of Government	264
Conclusions	270
Appendices	
Appendix 1 Members of Manuel II's Literary Circle	281
Appendix 2 The Contents and Structure of Manuel II's <i>Foundations</i>	284
Appendix 3 Translation of Gemistos Plethon's Preface to Manuel II's <i>Funeral Oration</i>	288
Appendix 4 Network of Ecclesiastics and Rhetoricians during Manuel II's Reign	290
Bibliography	
Manuscripts Consulted	293
Primary Sources	293
Secondary Literature	300
Index	323