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Sommario/riassunto

Samuel P. Müller offers here the first book-length study of the image of
Latins in Byzantine historiography of the long twelfth century, a crucial
period that witnessed an unprecedented intensification of Byzantine-
Western relations. He notably argues against popular assertions that
the image of Latins is "negative" and reflective of steadily mounting
tension. Instead, Müller shows that Byzantine historiography can hardly
be taken as evidence that the conquest of 1204 was the inevitable
outcome of previous interactions. The representation of Latins is
complex, ambivalent, and reflective of fickle and multifaceted
Byzantine-Western relations. The book also highlights the need to
focus on Byzantine identities and crucial, introspective motivations to
which the image of Latins is subordinated.
