

some of the more esoteric tongues, and she is to be commended for wading through the masses of data cited in the footnotes.

The book is a study in coalition politics and focuses mainly on three specific examples of conflict (Rumania, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany). Fifteen documents (pp. 201–48) round out the text. One is impressed with the analysis of the December 1970 crisis in Poland, which must have occurred as the manuscript was going to press. A brief postscript deals with May–June 1971 events.

This political instability is one of the problems in writing about East European politics. The Dubčeks, Ulbrichts, and Gomułkas are replaced with little or no advance notice. Ferment of this kind and the paucity of hard data force the analyst to engage in speculation regarding perceptions and motives. Dr. Remington's conclusions in which she compares the Warsaw Pact with the Organization of American States—and, specifically, the 1968 invasion of Czechoslovakia with the 1965 Dominican crisis—appear somewhat strained. Also, to place the Chilean election and the Polish riots of 1970 in the same context, as similar examples of Great Power restraint, does not seem valid to this reviewer (p. 195, n. 48).

One hopes that Dr. Remington will be encouraged by the favorable reactions to her work of painstaking research to delve into the military aspects of the Warsaw Pact. A good study is needed on the role of the East European armed forces in Soviet military strategy. The inferiority of NATO in terms of conventional forces and the qualitative build-up of the Warsaw Pact countries militarily require analysis, regardless of whether a mutual and balanced reduction of forces is attained. Recent books by Maria Hildt, ed., *Potencjał obronno-gospodarczy państw układu warszawskiego*, and Marian Jurek and Edward Skrzypkowski, *Układ warszawski* (both published in Warsaw, 1971), unfortunately do not go beneath the surface in this respect.

RICHARD F. STAAR  
*Hoover Institution*

THE THIRTY YEARS WAR. By J. V. Polišíenský. Translated by Robert Evans. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1971. x, 305 pp. \$10.00.

This is Professor Polišíenský's third book relating to European history in the first half of the seventeenth century. Its predecessors were two solidly documented monographs in Czech, one on England and Bohemia at the time of the anti-Habsburg rising in 1618–20, and the other on the Netherlands and Bohemia in the same period. In addition, he has published a large number of analytical studies and concise essays pertaining to specific problems of either Bohemia or Europe as a whole. On several occasions he took active part in the controversies stirred up by scholars of such repute as C. V. Wedgwood, Christopher Hill, and H. R. Trevor-Roper. By publishing his comprehensive study of the Thirty Years' War the University of California Press contributed significantly to the progress of international exchanges which no barriers or "curtains" should hinder.

The terse title covers a multitude of problems which vexed Western and Central Europe for several decades as dissatisfaction accumulated prior to the outburst in 1618, and then during the successive diplomatic and armed conflicts up to 1648. To get at their roots and to acquaint modern readers with their substance, the author decided on an unconventional approach. He presents the highly complicated

story on three levels. Some chapters (or their subdivisions) are devoted to general problems; others deal with the intricacies of public life in Bohemia, or with developments in one area, the domain of Zlín in southeastern Moravia. This organization gives the author ample opportunity to formulate his theses and to illustrate them with materials drawn from a vast amount of contemporary sources. But a good deal of concentration is needed to correlate the general trends with the ups and downs of provincial life.

Polišenský used his best endeavors to identify the moving forces in European politics in the period covered and to present to the modern reader the effects of their interplay. He recast the traditional picture in which the leading capitals, Madrid, Rome, Vienna, Paris, and London, stood out as focal points, and underscored the importance of other less conspicuous centers from which, in many crucial points, the initiative came. As far as Spain is concerned he does not view the royal court as the center of gravity, but assigns the active role to the viceroys in Naples and Milan who worked hand in hand with Archduke Albert and his consort Isabella in Brussels. Similarly, he presents Maximilian of Bavaria as the chief architect of Catholic coalitions in Central Europe. But the most notable correction of the accepted views is the author's emphasis on the Dutch part in diplomacy and military campaigns, especially after the expiration, in 1621, of the twelve-year truce with Spain.

The book is a significant contribution to the knowledge of the struggles for continental hegemony in which most Western and Central European countries became involved. Instead of presenting a portrait gallery of political and military leaders, the author attempts to grasp the sense and import of socioeconomic changes on which documentary sources seldom shed direct light. Although mostly analytical, the book is a fine piece of historical prose and takes a prominent place among the current scholarly production.

The translator, Robert Evans of Brasenose College, Oxford, did not follow mechanically the Czech original. By the elimination of details from the Zlín microcosm he makes the narrative smoother and more cohesive. Some minor errors could mislead the reader not acquainted with peculiarities of Czech life. For example, the Czech *děkan* (*decanus*) should be translated as "dean," not "deacon" (pp. 62, 119). The author's reference to the Collegium Nordicum as a papal institution does not mean to imply that it was located in Rome (p. 64); it was founded at Olomouc, as stated correctly in another connection (p. 163). The translator decided for a selective index and left out personal and place names of local importance.

OTAKAR ODLOŽILÍK  
*University of Pennsylvania*

RISE OF THE HABSBURG EMPIRE, 1526–1815. By *Victor S. Mamatey*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1971. x, 182 pp. Paper.

Within the confines of a study for use by undergraduate students, Professor Mamatey has produced an excellent brief work on the Habsburg Empire in the early modern period, all the more welcome because it is the first attempt in English to integrate the histories of all the Habsburg lands in these centuries. Mamatey focuses principally on Austria, Bohemia, and Hungary, but turns to events in other parts of the Monarchy whenever they transcend purely local interests. His method of