

the aim of progressive municipal politicians), but it allowed administrative re-organization, the introduction of first-class municipal services, a building boom, the assimilation of all the non-Magyars, and an amazing industrial development. By the end of the century there were close to a million inhabitants driven ahead by a dynamic bourgeoisie of Magyar noble, German, Slavic, and mainly Jewish origin, but a truly powerful bourgeois political party could never develop. In fact, the liberal bourgeois merely formed a link between the conservative state bureaucracy and the socialist workers. By 1914 Budapest was an economic and cultural giant which dwarfed the countryside in everything but political influence. General living conditions were improving until the First World War put a sudden end to this exhilarating period. The war and the revolutions, although exciting enough, could not mask the decline of Budapest into what it became in 1919: the impoverished, oversized, and strife-ridden capital of an impoverished and small country. The story of the city with the "loveliest geographic location in Europe" is beautifully told through the documents, but why are there no summaries in at least one major language?

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HUNGARY IN REVOLUTION, 1918–19: NINE ESSAYS. Edited by *Iván Völgyes*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1971. x, 219 pp. \$12.50.

This book will not replace Rudolf Tőkés's *Béla Kun and the Hungarian Soviet Republic* (1967) as the standard work in English on the subject. Fortunately that was not the aim of the editor and contributors. This volume of essays gave nine recognized experts the opportunity to express themselves on certain aspects of the 1918–19 events in Hungary in which they were particularly interested. The result is a welcome contribution to the growing literature on the subject.

The first three essays set the stage for the establishment of the Hungarian Soviet Republic. Joseph Held discusses the situation in Hungary before the First World War. The topic is far-reaching and extremely complicated, and not even an expert like Professor Held can cover it satisfactorily in nine pages. István Deák uses more than twice as much space to discuss the problems of Hungary during the years of the First World War. With great skill and literary ability he achieves the task assigned him and finds room for footnotes that contain a very good short bibliography of the subject. The third background essay, dealing with the Károlyi regime, starts somewhat slowly, but by the time Gábor Vermes has finished his chapter, he has given the reader a good short account of an interesting and neglected phase of Hungarian history.

Franck Eckelt covers a great variety of topics dealing with the internal policies of the Kun regime: the theater, schools, literature, health, and many other subjects. Although the information supplied is rich and accurate, the chapter suffers from two shortcomings. The author often forms his opinion on the basis of plans and blueprints that the Kun regime had no time to put into effect, and he fails to cover certain aspects of internal policy, such as security measures. Nevertheless, this chapter can be read with great profit, because it contains much material not easily available in other works.

Éva Balogh's chapter on the nationality problem of the Hungarian Soviet Republic is a first-rate piece of work. It required a great amount of research and at-

tion to a subject usually totally neglected. This chapter will stand for a long time as the best short study of the topic.

Zsuzsa Nagy, the well-known Hungarian historian, and Alfred D. Low deal with subjects that have made them respected and known on two continents: foreign policy and the relations of the Kun regime with the peacemakers in Paris. Although they inevitably go over ground they have covered before, both are able to add new details and insights in well-rounded and argued essays that are a pleasure to read. Approaching practically the same problems from two different angles, they come to similar conclusions, proving that good scholarship follows universal standards.

Iván Völgyes's contribution is short and disappointing. The topic of his chapter, "Soviet Russia and Soviet Hungary," is fascinating and would certainly fit perfectly into this volume. Unfortunately Völgyes leaves the topic with the title, and tries to prove instead that Kun was not Lenin's stooge in Hungary. Admittedly this charge has been made, but Kun's actions and behavior made it obvious that it was untrue. The two countries, and even more the two men, were very different; only a tenuous connection existed between Lenin's well-thought-out, long-range views and plans and Kun's short-range improvisations in Hungary. Especially regrettable is the fact that Völgyes is an expert on Soviet-Hungarian relations and could have given his readers a really interesting chapter.

The last essay, "Béla Kun: The Man and the Revolutionary," was contributed by Tökés. It is a model of its kind and a little masterpiece. The author begins by presenting his plan of work and discussing his sources and the lacunae in them. He then proceeds to do what he has promised, writing clearly with great knowledge and a rich supporting apparatus, ending with conclusions based squarely on the story he has presented. The reviewer's only regret is that the author skipped the 133 days during which Kun was Hungary's master. The inclusion of that period would have resulted in the best and most complete short history of Kun, the man and revolutionary, written so far.

The numerous languages used, the copious footnotes, and the danger of repetition must have made this volume an editor's nightmare. It is a pleasure to report that as an editor Völgyes succeeded admirably. The end result certainly justifies his efforts, and his slender volume will be read for many years to come.

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HITLER, HORTHY, AND HUNGARY: GERMAN-HUNGARIAN RELATIONS, 1941-1944. By *Mario D. Fenyo*. Yale Russian and East European Studies, 11. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1972. xii, 279 pp. \$10.00.

The subtitle of this book indicates its subject better than the somewhat theatrical and misleading main title, with the qualification that the consecutive narrative opens only with the immediate preliminaries to Hungary's entry into war against the USSR at the end of June 1941. There was undoubtedly room for a new work on the theme, for the only comprehensive treatment of it to date (the present reviewer's *October Fifteenth*) was written nearly twenty years ago, and since then a considerable amount of documentary material has become available—though not so much, indeed, as Mr. Fenyo, who inexplicably accuses his predecessor of having "neglected to consult documents, apart from those in his personal possession" (p. 251), would