

THE HISTORICAL AND NATIONALISTIC THOUGHT OF NICOLAE IORGA. By *William O. Oldson*. East European Monographs, no. 5. Boulder, Colo.: *East European Quarterly*, 1973. Distributed by Columbia University Press, New York. viii, 135 pp. \$10.00.

NICOLAE IORGA: A ROMANIAN HISTORIAN OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE. By *Maria Matilda Alexandrescu-Dersca Bulgaru*. Translated by *Mary Lăzărescu*. Bibliotheca Historica Romaniae Studies, 40. Bucharest: Publishing House of the Academy of the Socialist Republic of Romania, 1972. 190 pp. Lei 10, paper.

These two studies present a tantalizing peek at the tip of the proverbial iceberg. The first is an analysis of Iorga's primarily nationalistic histories of his countrymen, whereas the second is a recounting of Iorga's four-volume history of the Ottoman Empire (originally published in German in 1908–13) and other works treating the Turkish occupation. Since only one of Iorga's major works has appeared in English (a one-volume history of the Rumanians published in London in 1925), of the twelve hundred books and pamphlets he miraculously turned out, we must accept on faith the findings of these two contemporary experts.

Although Iorga was virtually ignored by Rumania's Marxist historians before 1964, he has now emerged to take his rightful place as that nation's most distinguished savant. Mr. Oldson, a young American scholar, was fortunate to undertake on-the-scene research after Iorga's posthumous rehabilitation, and Dr. Bulgaru, a professional Rumanian historian, is likewise privileged to investigate hitherto restricted sources. These and other recent studies of Iorga presage the restoration of the honors temporarily denied him.

Bulgaru's book deals with Iorga's still commendable studies of the Turks and with the influences of that ethnic group on Rumania's evolution. Whereas her analysis is extremely favorable to Iorga, Oldson's study is critically probing and furnishes us with a sharp insight into Iorga's distortions of history to satisfy his nationalism and propagandizing in favor of the creation of "Greater Rumania." Oldson's book boldly suggests that Iorga's distortions, admittedly for didactic purposes, resemble the intricate gyrations of Rumanian historiography under the present regime. The force of nationalism is probably stronger than that of Marxism, or even truth.

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ROMÂNIA ÎN ANII NEUTRALITĂȚII (1914–1916). By *Constantin Nuțu*. Bucharest: Editura Științifică, 1972. 348 pp. Lei 15.

Rumanian historians have produced a plethora of specialized studies on the period of the First World War, especially articles and monographs dealing with "popular" or "revolutionary" movements. But as yet no general synthesis has appeared. Publication of volume 5 of the official *Istoria României* (Bucharest, 1960–), which covers the period 1878–1918, has been promised for almost ten years, and a collective at the Institute of History in Bucharest is just beginning work on a major study, *România în primul război Mondial*. The book under review, written by a professor of history at Bucharest University and director of the University Library, partly fills this lacuna. It is not a specialized diplomatic history but a

general discussion of Rumania's position in 1914–16 in the wider context of the strategy and diplomacy of the great powers. Professor Nuțu's approach reflects the current Rumanian repudiation of the traditional Marxist interpretation—dominant until the mid-1960s—which held that Rumania's role in the First World War was essentially imperialist in character. He argues that it was a just and legitimate struggle for the achievement of the “national ideal,” the unification of all Rumanians. Far from being a practitioner of imperialism, Rumania was in fact one of its victims.

While some non-Rumanian historians will question this and other presuppositions contained in the book's opening chapters, all readers will profit from Nuțu's exposition of Rumania's diplomatic negotiations in the main body of the work. He rightly portrays Rumania's position in 1914–16 not as one of neutrality but as one of “nonengagement.” That is, it was not the policy of the Brătianu government to wait until the outcome of the war was evident and then sell Rumania's services to the probable victor. Instead, it involved, from the earliest weeks of the war, a tacit commitment to the Triple Entente and the inauguration of military and diplomatic preparations for the dismemberment of Austria-Hungary. Brătianu's simultaneous negotiations with the Central Powers were nothing more than a sham to cover his real intentions.

Nuțu is to be commended for his general avoidance of polemic and his relatively irenic and sophisticated treatment of ideological issues. Brătianu, for example, is given credit for his political insight, diplomatic skill, and commitment to the achievement of the Rumanian “national ideal,” and the leaders of the Rumanian National Party in Transylvania are presented in a generally positive manner. On the other hand, King Ferdinand is still viewed in a negative light. He is lumped with the Germanophile Conservatives, and his crucial contribution to Rumania's national cause by supporting Brătianu and misleading the Central Powers is not given the recognition it deserves.

Nuțu's archival documentation is drawn almost entirely from the Austrian diplomatic archives and tends to emphasize what they reveal. Indeed, one of his main purposes (and accomplishments) seems to be to present to a Rumanian audience the new information these documents bring to light. Although one could wish Nuțu had used more Rumanian sources than he did, the fault is not entirely his. Primary documentation does not exist for some aspects of Brătianu's secretive and personal conduct of Rumanian foreign policy, and in other instances it is not available to scholars. Professor Nuțu has promised a second edition based on additional archival material from Western Europe, but even as it now stands his book is the best introduction to the subject presently available.

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ECONOMIC REFORM IN RUMANIAN INDUSTRY. By *Iancu Spigler*. Foreword by *Michael Kaser*. Institute of Soviet and East European Studies, University of Glasgow. Economic Reforms in East European Industry series. New York and London: Oxford University Press, 1973. xxi, 176 pp. Fold-out map. \$12.50.

This book is the second in a series devoted to economic reforms in East European industry, under the general editorship of Alec Nove and Janusz G. Zielinski. The