

Balkan history as an aspect of European and world history, but Djordjević attacks it from the inside, as a subject with its own intrinsic importance, related to and part of European history but not requiring it to achieve significance. Djordjević is a skillful and erudite historian. His effort should receive serious attention from everyone interested in this confusing and exciting subject.

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FRANZ JOSEPH I OF AUSTRIA AND HIS EMPIRE. By *Anatol Murad*.
New York: Twayne Publishers, 1968. x, 259 pp. \$6.50.

One can fully agree with Professor Murad's evaluation of Joseph Redlich's *Kaiser Franz Joseph von Österreich* (1928) as the most scholarly critical biography of the emperor. Redlich, a truly great historian, was thus far also the only one who had attempted to give, in a book of about five hundred pages, a combined account of the emperor's personality and of the main problems of his reign. He only partly succeeded in this formidable task. Murad, an economist, fails almost completely in this second attempt at such a biography, a volume half the size of Redlich's work.

Lack of space is only partly responsible for this failure. The problems of the empire are discussed in lively fashion, lacking not in literary skill but in depth. Inaccuracies do occur, and such basic terms as independence, province, minorities, and serfdom are used far too loosely.

Yet that part of the book is still far superior to the discussion of Franz Joseph's personality. Here the author takes a most unfavorable view, and he is, of course, fully within his rights to do so; but he frequently criticizes the emperor for the wrong reasons. One may well say that Franz Joseph's policy during the Crimean War was wrong, but to conclude that he was ungrateful to Tsar Nicholas is a rather simplistic approach. The emperor's highly complex relationship to his consort is reduced to the argument that he wanted to keep up appearances. No wonder: according to the bibliography Murad has not used the two-volume edition of the emperor's letters to his wife. The Mayerling tragedy is discussed on the basis of the flimsiest of evidence, and Franz Joseph's often discussed personal austerity, which conflicted with the splendor of courtly etiquette, is perceived as sheer hypocrisy. These and other oversimplifications defeat the author's objective, sound though it may be. The author states that the research material for his book "was almost entirely" gathered in Austrian libraries and archives. Unfortunately the book has gained little from these opportunities. This may not be the poorest book about Franz Joseph, but it is certainly not better than mediocre.

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TSCHECHOSLOWAKEI. By *Jörg K. Hoensch*. Tübingen Studien zur
Geschichte und Politik, 23. Tübingen: J. C. B. Mohr (Paul Siebeck), 1967.
xiv, 324 pp. 2 maps. DM 46.

Based on published and unpublished documents from German, British, French, Czechoslovak, Polish, Hungarian, and United States archives, and the pertinent