

Although failing to go beyond published sources, Professor Deme's work is a well-researched scholarly study. It summarizes well all that is known about the role of the Radicals. Insofar as his topic and his limited space permitted, he has done an excellent job. But I fail to see how he managed to produce a book about 1848 in Hungary—even if its topic is the Radical Left—that does not even mention the name of the great liberal statesman and political philosopher, Joseph Eötvös.

Deme's work is supplemented by brief biographical sketches of the most significant personalities, by a chronology of the Revolution, by a list of his primary and secondary sources, as well as by a brief index.

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A FÜGGETLEN KISGAZDAPÁRT POLITIKÁJA (1944–1947). By *István Vida*. Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1976. 368 pp. 85 Ft.

Treatises on postwar political developments in Eastern Europe have rarely been based on both primary sources and an impartial attitude on the part of the author. István Vida's approach seems to be an exception. In this substantial work, the history of the Independent Smallholders' Party is related to and analyzed within the context of Hungary's domestic and foreign relations. He stresses that while the Soviet Union played an active role in shaping the country's policies, Western powers remained quite passive. In this constellation—which is well illustrated by the author—the Smallholders' Party waged its struggle for power without any foreign support while the Communist Party was backed by the Kremlin, a situation that inevitably led to the Communist takeover. The Smallholders' Party did manage two decisive victories, however: the first on October 7, 1945 at the Budapest municipal elections where they garnered 50.54 percent of the vote, and, the second at the November 4, 1945 general elections where they won 57.03 percent of the vote.

In describing the power struggle between the Smallholders' Party and the Communists, Mr. Vida masterfully reviews the hesitant behavior of the other members of the coalition, namely, the tactics of the Social Democrats and of the National Peasant Party. But he supplies only superficial data on the party's internal struggles and relies mostly on oral information given by the late Gyula Ortutay and György Gulácsy, neither of whom was privy to firsthand knowledge of the party's internal fights between Secretary General Béla Kovács and the factions led by Zoltán Tildy. Mr. Vida's value judgment of the Smallholders' Party's role is worth quoting in its entirety: "Its survival perhaps would have moderated the mistakes which were committed during the collectivization of agriculture and which were corrected only after the defeat of the 1956 counterrevolution" (p. 352).

There are a few factual errors in the book; for example, the author states that "the Peasant Alliance (*Parasztszövetség*) was founded in the autumn of 1941 with the aid of Prime Minister Teleki" (p. 16); this is not so, because Prime Minister Teleki was not alive at that time, he had committed suicide on April 3, 1941. In several cases, important names are misspelled: Bárányos (as Bársonyos, p. 284), Minister of Justice István Riesz (as I. Reisz, pp. 335 and 336), and József Gróh (misspelled as J. Gróth, pp. 216 and 222).

Primarily based on original documentation and contemporary analyses, the monograph includes a well-compiled bibliography and a personal name index. In post-1945 Eastern Europe it represents an objective experiment in writing party history.

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