

volumes of his works. Each bore a different title, and the volume of his speeches and writings as president between 1926 and 1935 was entitled *Pasakytą parašyta*. The volume under review, edited by Leonas Sabaliūnas, a historian, and Vincas Rastenis, a journalist, completes the collection for his last years in power. (Smetona fled Lithuania in 1940 and died four years later in Cleveland, Ohio.)

Smetona has drawn attacks from some, ironic condescension from others (as from John Gunther in his *Inside Europe*), and occasional apologetics from his supporters. Nevertheless, relatively little of a serious nature has been written about this man who was a professor of philosophy—he especially enjoyed discussing Plato—and who was also a master stylist of the Lithuanian language. Overall, while I question the editors' decision not to give the circumstances surrounding each of the 101 items included in the collection, the volume should be very useful to anyone working in twentieth-century Lithuanian history.

Although the books under review tend to emphasize the separate identity of the Baltic peoples, Ģermanis's study explicitly stresses the role of non-Russian nationalities in the Bolshevik Revolution. One can find a certain irony in a reprise of a major theme of monarchist political rhetoric of the 1920s, but such an approach does point up the usefulness of studying the smaller nationalities of the USSR. Baltic studies have made great progress in the West during the last decade, and there is now a significant corpus of literature on the history and culture of this region.

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THE 1917 REVOLUTION IN LATVIA. By *Andrew Ezergailis*. Boulder, Colo.: *East European Quarterly*, 1974. iv, 281 pp. \$12.50. Distributed by Columbia University Press, New York.

Pioneering works on the impact of the Russian empire's national-liberationist movements in 1917 are finally beginning to appear in English. Hopefully they will aid future writers of textbooks in "Russian" history to describe the revolutionary movement as the multinational phenomenon it really was. Preeminent Anglo-American scholarship on late nineteenth and twentieth-century Russia seemingly has been innocent of knowledge of the minority peoples or their languages. Ezergailis now helps to set the record straight concerning one of the oppressed peoples of tsarist Russia—the Latvians. The monumental role this tiny nation came to play in one of history's most crucial moments makes the work doubly valuable. Because of the peculiar circumstances surrounding the fate of Latvia during World War I, the Latvian military units remained alert and battle-ready even after the total collapse of the Russian imperial army in 1917. Choosing to side with Lenin, this military force helped to shake the world in November of 1917 and well beyond.

Andrew Ezergailis is a philosopher of history, a keen political scientist, and an expert on Marxism. Being the offspring of a veteran of the Latvian Rifle Brigade—the so-called elite guard of the October Revolution—has not marred his objectivity. His book is a painstaking analysis of very subtle aspects of Latvian national Marxism, which, as it happens, provides an essential agrarian cum national-liberationist key to the "science" of Leninism. History has amply revealed that

Leninism has been effective precisely in places where the anger of impoverished peasants could be combined with a struggle for national freedom.

Ezergailis attributes the failure of Latvian Menshevism to what he terms the "fetish of unity," that is, the refusal of the "unionist" elements of the Latvian Social Democratic Party to understand that there was no way to coexist with Bolshevism. The author's almost mathematical proof of this weak unionist position reminds us of the extent to which the same mistake cost Menshevism so dearly throughout the Russian empire. Ezergailis's use of Latvian materials provides a rich lode for non-Latvian historians. He could, however, have made greater use of sources in Russian and German. He might also have revised more thoroughly the previously written or published materials included here—particularly the chapter on "The Nationality Question in Bolshevik Ideology." The subtle difference in the views of Stučka and Lenin regarding the nationality question are of such universal importance that the earlier-vintage Ezergailis should have been refined to reflect his advancing maturity.

This book also makes a valuable contribution by highlighting the importance, in the shaping of events in 1917, of the Thirteenth Conference of the Latvian Social Democratic Party, held in Moscow, May 2–5, and in detailing the world's first Bolshevik takeover, as it occurred in unoccupied Latvia four months before the Petrograd coup. And since it has recently been discovered that it was not only "three who made a revolution," we should be thankful to Ezergailis for reminding us of the decisive parts played by Stučka and Danisevskis, among many others.

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AN ECONOMIC BACKGROUND TO MUNICH: INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA, 1918–1938. By *Alice Teichova*. Soviet and East European Studies. New York and London: Cambridge University Press, 1974. xx, 422 pp. \$27.50.

This study investigates primarily the microeconomic and institutional aspects of Czechoslovak international economic activity during the interwar period. The focus is upon industrial and commercial enterprises that relied on foreign technology, investment capital, and financing, in the manner of multinational corporations today. Such systematized business history illuminates the economic environment in which Germany pursued her aggressive designs while diplomats gambled with the fate of an industrious small country.

Relying on Czechoslovak and other archives, the author disentangles the multinational patterns of ownership, finance, management, and marketing in such key sectors as mining and metallurgy (chapter 3), mechanical and electrical engineering (chapter 4), and chemical industry (chapter 5). Teichova demonstrates that although it was the French, British, and U.S. interests that held the largest shares in various industries, the Germans gained considerable influence over Czechoslovak business enterprise through international marketing cartels. This type of study could well be pursued further on the basis of business records and archives in Western countries.

This reviewer would have liked to find greater attention given to governmental policies related to international business. Teichova discusses mainly the