

THE CHANGING FACE OF COMMUNISM IN EASTERN EUROPE. Edited by *Peter A. Toma*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1970. xv, 413 pp. \$4.95, paper.

This book has a combination of purposes. The summer institute for secondary school teachers, where these papers were first presented in 1969, grew out of a program of the U.S. Office of Education to improve the teaching of international affairs, especially about communism. The more specific aim of the book, according to its editor, is to analyze significant changes which have occurred in East European countries and the impact of these changes on their relations with the USSR and the West. The main theme for both purposes is pluralism: that it is not only deceptive but (even worse) unscholarly to lump together the eight socialist countries of Europe into one geographic region governed by uniform political rules. For those to whom that proposition still needs proving, this book performs the task.

Among the authors one notes a few of the old reliables, but the presence of others is a welcome sign that a new generation of experts on Eastern Europe has arrived. Each paper has its merits, but that is perhaps all they have in common. Stephen Fischer-Galati, drawing on his earlier work on Rumania, gives a straightforward account of political developments within the Communist leadership and relations with the Soviet Union. Joseph Fiszman writes on Poland largely in terms of the social structure. Marin Pundeff's piece on Bulgaria covers many subjects somewhat in the manner of a handbook, with the virtues and faults of that method. Donald Dalglish deals with East Germany largely by describing in Germanic prose its governmental and party institutions, including a heavy dose of perishable detail, but he also takes better account of economic questions than most of his colleagues do. Jan Triska's essay on Czechoslovakia is directed to the dilemmas and decisions of the party elite in 1967 and 1968. Bennett Kovrig briefly analyzes the "new economic mechanism" in Hungary and the concomitant adaptation of the political culture, rightly stressing the rather narrow limits within which these changes are taking place. George Klein makes a valiant attempt to tell the very different story of Yugoslavia, but in this brief compass can hardly do justice to its complexities. The longest chapter of the book deals with the smallest country, Albania. Because it is also the least known, Nicholas Pano's summary of the last ten years of domestic and foreign policy is a welcome contribution.

Two general essays on East Europe's relations with the USSR and with the West provide perspective. The former, by Vernon Aspaturian, is much more than a review of recent developments; it is a stimulating interpretation guaranteed to provoke debate—for example, his description of the different stages of Soviet policy. Wolfgang Klaiber's piece is more conventional, although he does not shun controversy and reaches the conclusion that the political evolution of the Soviet bloc countries will in time converge with that of the West.

The editor deliberately refrained from imposing discipline on the book, either by establishing a pattern to guide his authors or by using his introductory and concluding chapters to weave the many strands into a fabric. Disciplined or not, it is a well-documented book by competent scholars containing much interesting material. What secondary school teachers will make of it I cannot foretell. Certainly all specialists in the field of Soviet and East European affairs will profit by reading it.

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