

The style and format are pleasing, and both the text and the footnotes are in readable type. It is regrettable that the volume does not have a satisfactory index and that the author failed to check a few minor details, so that, for example, one finds references to Budapest centuries before the city came into existence. But the errors are minor, the value of the study considerable. Students of both Renaissance and Ottoman history will read this volume with pleasure and profit.

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MANNERHEIM: THE YEARS OF PREPARATION. By *J. E. O. Screen*. London: C. Hurst & Company, 1970. x, 158 pp. £2 15s., paper.

K. J. STÄHLBERG—VALTIOMIESELÄMÄKERTA. By *Yrjö Blomstedt*. Helsinki: Kustannusosakeyhtiö Otava, 1969. 549 pp. 35 Finnmarks.

In the summer of 1919 Gustaf Mannerheim was defeated decisively in the first Finnish presidential election by K. J. Ståhlberg. That Mannerheim is much more famous than Ståhlberg suggests that winning is not everything. This hypothesis is certainly supported by later events in Mannerheim's career, when he became covered with glory by leading the Finnish Army to defeat in two successive wars during 1939–44. As a professional soldier, Mannerheim was on the victorious side in only one war—the Finnish Civil War of 1918. After his election in 1919 Ståhlberg made an enormously favorable peace with Russia, in the Treaty of Dorpat (1920). He also united the Finnish nation, still badly divided in 1919, so that at the end of his presidential term (1925) he would probably have been re-elected unanimously if he had chosen to run again, which he did not; and his successes helped to ensure that Finland alone of all the new states of 1919 would remain, six decades later, both independent and democratic.

With track records like these, one would expect that the scholarly literature about Ståhlberg would be much more extensive than that about Mannerheim. Since scholarship seldom follows life, this expectation would be false. Screen's biography of Mannerheim up to the October Revolution is but one of an incredibly large number of books about a born loser; and, even more incredibly, Blomstedt's biography of Ståhlberg is the first book-length scholarly study ever to be published about its subject in any language. Any reviewer's first natural reaction would be to assume that there are already far too many books about Mannerheim, and that *any* book about Ståhlberg should be welcomed with open arms. This reaction, too, would be mistaken. Screen has done brilliantly what no one else, not even the authors of multivolume biographies, has done before him—illuminate Mannerheim's three decades in the Russian Imperial Army. With wide knowledge and deep understanding, this young British scholar has written what is by far the finest book about Mannerheim ever published in any language. No scholar interested in Mannerheim, Finnish history, Russian history in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, or military history should miss the pleasure of reading Screen's book. It is the definitive treatment of its subject, and it is written in prose that is always clear and often beautiful. It is a model of fairness, detail, documentation in many languages, and brevity—in short, of scholarship as it should be. Mannerheim, in spite of all his weaknesses, was an authentically great and memorable man, and he has at long last found a biographer worthy of the subject.

This reviewer's heart is with Ståhlberg, not Mannerheim, but even he found it difficult to finish Blomstedt's monstrously long book. The author devotes too much space to providing a general history of Finnish politics, and far too little space to his subject. The general history is generally accurate, but one can read whole pages without encountering Ståhlberg's name or even learning what the relevance of those pages is to understanding Ståhlberg. The patient reader can eventually discover most of the important biographical facts for the years before 1919, but only if he is good at spotting needles in haystacks. After 1919, however, the search becomes almost impossible. President Ståhlberg gets totally lost among the frequent cabinet changes and party realignments. This may be the fate of most individuals in modern democracies, but it was certainly not Ståhlberg's fate. He was not only the first Finnish president, but probably the most successful in achieving those policy goals he had set out to reach. Blomstedt, quite unjustifiably, seems to feel that Ståhlberg in 1919 had no specific policy goals and that he did not use the powers of the presidential office to the full. If ever a politician knew when he took office what he wanted to accomplish in that office, it was K. J. Ståhlberg in 1919, and if any president of any republic used his constitutional powers, it was K. J. Ståhlberg between 1919 and 1925. As the chief author of the Finnish Constitution, and a former professor of law, he knew every nook and cranny of that document. As a man who enjoyed the exercise of power, he did not permit his knowledge to go unused.

Blomstedt's book has other weaknesses. The footnote citations are peculiar in form and inadequate in number. In many crucial places even standard published sources are not mentioned. The literary quality of the author's prose leaves a great deal to be desired. There are far too few scholarly judgments on controversial matters. The book sounds as if it were written by a committee, and indeed the preface reveals that the author was commissioned to write the book by a committee of scholars, which was in turn created by the Finnish Cabinet, which realized at the time of Ståhlberg's centennial in 1965 that there was no authoritative biography of the Finnish statesman whose name is probably the one most universally respected in Finland. There is still, alas, no such authoritative biography. This well-intentioned act of piety would have been much more appropriately directed to publication of Ståhlberg's papers. Those papers would reveal a politician who always sounded like a human being, not a committee, a politician worthy of being ranked in competence and integrity with another strong-willed nineteenth-century liberal president for whom 1919 was a fateful year. Ståhlberg deserves better.

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WIRTSCHAFTSREFORMEN IN OSTEUROPA. Edited by *Karl C. Thalheim* and *Hans-Hermann Höhmann*. Cologne: Verlag Wissenschaft und Politik, 1968. 309 pp. DM 32.

DIE SOZIALISTISCHE MARKTWIRTSCHAFT IN DER TSCHECHOSLOWAKEI. By *K. Paul Hensel* et al. Stuttgart: Gustav Fischer Verlag, 1968. 379 pp.

These two volumes represent a worthy sample of West German scholarship—with a sprinkling of non-German contributors—in the area of Soviet and East European