

THE YUGOSLAV COMMUNITY OF NATIONS. By *Frits W. Hondius*. The Hague and Paris: Mouton, 1968. 375 pp. 65 Dutch guilders, paper.

This book is an excellent addition to the growing number of books on Yugoslavia. Most recent efforts on Yugoslavia tend to be basic, highly generalized descriptive works, dealing either with historical development or the political and economic system. The Hondius book is welcome precisely because it is *not* still another such generalized treatment of Yugoslavia. On the contrary, it is a historically grounded analytic monograph that focuses on the federal aspect of the Yugoslav constitutional system. Indeed, my feeling is that scholarly research on Yugoslavia needs to move increasingly in the direction of extensive, in-depth monographic studies of specific features of the system (e.g., the legislature, the bureaucracy, political development in Bosnia-Herzegovina, etc.). Although Professor Hondius relies heavily on an institutional and legalistic data-base, he also locates this within a broader ecological context touching upon both ethnoregional and historical factors. Accordingly, the initial chapters on "The Multinational Condition" and "Development of Historical Units" provide the substantive ecological matrix that enriches the subsequent analysis of the legal aspects of Yugoslav federalism. These chapters are followed by a description of the historical evolution of Communist Yugoslav public law as expressed by the formula, Constitution (1946)—Constitutional Law (1953)—Constitution (1963). Although largely a treatment of the federal aspects of Yugoslav constitutional law, other public law features are also discussed, which merely acknowledges that all legal forms in Yugoslavia have their ethnoregional aspect.

The book should be praised on a number of counts. First, Hondius fills a major gap in English literature on Yugoslavia with his thorough analysis of Yugoslav constitutional law. Second, as mentioned above, the book is not a sterile, legalistic treatment of the subject, but rather is embellished by reference to ethnoregional, economic, political, and historical factors. Third, the author also introduces some comparative analysis (e.g., with Switzerland, the Soviet Union, the United States, etc.) which does much to enrich his overall effort. The specialized subfield of comparative federalism, along with its behavioral second cousin, comparative "nation-building," are inviting areas of current research. As a result, although Hondius writes a book dealing only with Yugoslav federalism, he also contributes significantly to comparative analysis in a broader sense. And, finally, the tables that he presents for the purpose of comparing elements in the three "constitutions," as well as those for the varying features of constitutional law in the different republics, are analytically informative.

By way of summary, let me just say that Hondius's book is to be highly recommended with respect to its style and organization as well as its content. The basic theoretical distinctions that he employs and elaborates (e.g., Yugoslavia as an "internally" differentiated federation), the grounding of analysis in the historical and ethnoregional aspects of the society, the effort to abstract more generalized comparative-theoretical statements from the Yugoslav case, and the thorough and careful documentation that the author marshals so well—all these contribute to what is a solid and analytically instructive book. In short, Professor Hondius has made an important contribution to our knowledge of Yugoslavia and to the literature in the field.

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