

two dynamic powers who were both dissatisfied with the post-World War I settlement. Poland not only had to strive to avert the German menace, but she also had to consider the possibility of Soviet encroachment and expansion. Thus Poland had to navigate between two dangers: becoming a German vassal or a Soviet satellite. The author illustrates with numerous examples that the possibilities for a sensible, acceptable compromise on either side were very limited. Until 1932 (as far as the Soviet Union was concerned) and 1934 (in the case of Germany) Poland's relations with both her big neighbors were virtually in a state of cold war; only the nonaggression pact signed in those years normalized them somewhat. One of the ways to counterbalance the overwhelming strength of the two giants was to enlist the assistance of the Western democracies. The Western Powers, however, but especially Britain, regarded East Central Europe as a nuisance and extended little help to the countries of the area. France, after having signed a treaty of defensive alliance with Poland in 1921, persistently tried to disengage herself from the affairs of East Central Europe. Locarno was the first step in that direction. Consequently Poland's limited resources were strained to the utmost just to survive. The author, however, is not concerned with Polish domestic problems; she focuses entirely on foreign affairs, especially on the diplomatic game conducted by Colonel Józef Beck in order to cope with a host of intricate problems facing a medium-sized country precariously wedged in between two aggressive powers.

The book starts with a tightly woven, well-reasoned introduction, and then deals with the Anschluss, the Czechoslovak crisis, and the interlude before the storm—the last moments of peace following the Munich conference. The chapter entitled "The Parting of the Ways: The British Guarantee to Poland" and an epilogue and conclusion close this compact but extremely rich book. It originated as a doctoral dissertation, but grew into a first-class monograph that compares favorably with anything written on the subject. In the opinion of the present reviewer, the introductory and concluding chapters together form the best short summary of Poland's foreign policy in any language. A few minor mistakes do not detract from the overall value of the work. On the whole, this is the best defense of Colonel Beck's policy to be published so far.

M. K. DZIEWANOWSKI
Boston University

FROM PRAGUE AFTER MUNICH: DIPLOMATIC PAPERS, 1938-1940.

By *George F. Kennan*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1968. xxviii, 266 pp. \$6.50.

George F. Kennan has included in this handsome volume selected German, Czech, and Slovak documents, the text of the Nazi Germanization plan designed to solve the Czech question "once for all" (a plan that, fortunately, was never carried out), and materials containing explanations of the conflicts between the Czechs and the Slovaks, of the latter's resentment of Jewish domination of some sectors of the economy in Slovakia, and of economic problems in the province caused by capital investment owned almost exclusively by the Czechs and the Jews. The greatest value of the book, however, is Kennan's perception of the climate of opinion at the time of writing his confidential letters from his post at Prague (and later Berlin) to the State Department. In this context the renowned diplomat demonstrates how liberalism and democracy were discredited in Czechoslovakia after the Nazi occupation of the Sudetenland. Earlier, Masaryk's democracy had been almost universally

held in high esteem; but by December 1938 Kennan had repeatedly heard such comments as, "How was it possible that any people could allow itself to be led for twenty years by such a *Sauhund* . . . as Beneš" (p. 7).

The documentary collection begins with Kennan's own historical introduction and ends with an epilogue by Professor Frederick G. Heymann that analyzes and evaluates the historical significance of the material presented. Also included are a glossary, an index, and a few maps showing the areas affected by the Munich settlement. Several photographs of the dramatic entry of the German forces into Prague on March 15, 1939, convey the atmosphere of that tragic day, which was so much like the infamous August 21, 1968, when Soviet troops occupied the country. Kennan, by shedding light on "the dilemma of limited collaboration with evil, in the interest of its ultimate mitigation, as opposed to an uncompromising, heroic but suicidal resistance to it, at the expense of the ultimate weakening of the forces capable of acting against it," helps us understand and evaluate the moral problems of the Czechs and the Slovaks today in choosing between collaboration and resistance.

Kennan's firsthand account of the first great Czechoslovak tragedy that began in 1938 makes the work mandatory reading for those who want to go beyond superficial descriptions of events written by authors who do not have the keen mind of this former diplomat and observer of international events or his willingness and ability to see things as they are and report on them accordingly.

JOSEF KALVODA
Saint Joseph College, West Hartford, Conn.

FIFTY YEARS OF COMMUNISM IN RUSSIA. Edited, with an introduction, by *Milorad M. Drachkovitch*. Hoover Institution Publication, no. 77. University Park and London: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1968. xi, 316 pp. \$7.50.

THE COMINTERN: HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS: ESSAYS, RECOLLECTIONS, DOCUMENTS. Edited by *Milorad M. Drachkovitch* and *Branko Lazitch*. Hoover Institution Publication. New York and Washington: Frederick A. Praeger. London: Pall Mall Press, 1966. xv, 430 pp. \$10.00.

FIFTY YEARS OF COMMUNISM: THEORY AND PRACTICE, 1917-1967. By *G. F. Hudson*. New York: Basic Books, Inc., 1968. vii, 234 pp. \$5.95.

THE SOVIET UNION: A HALF-CENTURY OF COMMUNISM. Edited by *Kurt London*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1968. Published in cooperation with the Institute for Sino-Soviet Studies, The George Washington University. xiv, 493 pp. \$12.00, cloth. \$2.95, paper.

RUSSIA 1917-1964: A HISTORY OF MODERN RUSSIA FROM THE 1917 REVOLUTION TO THE FALL OF KHRUSHCHEV. By *J. N. Westwood*. New York and Evanston: Harper & Row, 1966. 208 pp. \$4.95.

Disappointment with totalitarian models for the study of Marxian socialist states is expanding in North America as authors introduce studies in "pluralism." European scholars, in contrast, still prefer to center their analyses on Russia's long history, spotted with revolutions and terror, to explain the current situation. The volumes under review, prepared in anticipation of the fiftieth anniversary of 1917,