

as a preliminary to a planned history of Slavistics in Czechoslovakia (now in progress in Brno, though its future is in doubt). This roster of illustrious names, with the incredibly long bibliographies attached to many of them, is certainly vivid evidence of the fundamental contribution Czechs and Slovaks have made to the development of Slavic studies. As a reference book, however, its value is primarily as a biographical dictionary. With only an index of proper names, it would be very difficult to use it for topical research. Nevertheless, it is a valuable tool for those who can get it.

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MINULOST NAŠEHO STATU V DOKUMENTECH. Prague: Nakladatelství Svoboda, 1971. 334 pp. Kčs. 41.

This is an excellent selection of documents and literary extracts to illustrate Czech history from the earliest times to the end of the nineteenth century. It was presumably intended for the intelligent layman in Czechoslovakia; the work has been done with scholarly thoroughness and will be useful to all students of the subject. There is a brief and valuable introduction by the distinguished Czechoslovak historian, Professor Josef Polišenský. Each item is introduced by a note on the context and contents of the document and is supplied with good footnotes; information is also given on the archival sources.

The first item, an extract from the Byzantine historian Procopius, dates from the sixth century; the last document is from 1897. The volume includes the full text of documents of considerable importance in not only Bohemian but also Central European history. There are key documents from the Hussite period fully reproduced and also the complete text of the Letter of Majesty (1609) and of the Confederation of the Bohemian and Austrian Estates of 1619. The nineteenth-century documents include general Austrian documents, such as the text of the Kremsier and the Stadion constitutions (1849), as well as others relating to Czech political life.

The whole book is attractively produced and furnished with fine colored illustrations. An English translation would be invaluable.

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THE SLOVAK DILEMMA. By *Eugen Steiner*. International Studies. Published for the Centre for International Studies, London School of Economics and Political Science. New York and London: Cambridge University Press, 1973. ix, 229 pp. \$13.95.

Among the avalanche of publications devoted to the Czechoslovak Spring, few works have dealt with Slovakia exclusively, and the need for a basic study has remained. Eugen Steiner is not a scholar but a journalist who turned to scholarship in emigration. He describes himself as a Jew, a Communist, and a Slovak. One feels—admittedly with some personal prejudice—that this is a rather overwhelming combination for one person. Nevertheless, this volume is one of the most levelheaded investigations of Slovakia's past and present in any major European language. The *Slovak Dilemma* recalls the perceptive works of the now

expelled L'ubomír Lipták and Ján Mlynárik. All display a new, intelligent look into Slovak history, while holding to the Communist *Weltanschauung*.

The first part of Steiner's study, terminating in 1948, is based on scholarly research. It presents a balanced picture of Slovakia, rather unusual in a field so marred by national and political biases. While emphasizing the country's achievements, Steiner recognizes its inferior status in the First Republic. I am afraid, however, that the alleged antifascist attitude of the broad Slovak masses is somewhat idealized. Steiner's discussion of the period covering the years 1948–70 depends more on firsthand observations made while he was working as a journalist in Slovakia than on references to sources.

The author argues that "one of the main fallacies in classical Marxism has been precisely an under-estimation of the impact of nationalism in all spheres" (p. 2), and he presents the case of Slovakia as convincing proof of this statement. In the economic sphere, Steiner demonstrates the ambivalent relations between industrial development, discrimination, and Slovak nationalism. Yet one would also like to understand the discriminatory mind of a Czech Communist. The author interprets the thinking of the "Czechoslovakists" during the First Republic, but not that of the Communists of the Federal Republic.

I would contest several of Steiner's interpretations and correct a few mistakes. One correction (p. 65) is important for the Slovak annals: the birthplace of Andrej Hlinka was Černová not Ružomberok (the seat of his parish). But in general this is a timely and important book on modern Slovakia.

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THE CIVIL-MILITARY FABRIC OF WEIMAR FOREIGN POLICY. By
Gaines Post, Jr. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1973. x, 398 pp. \$16.00.

The main theme of this book—in contrast with other works that have discussed the role of the army in the internal politics of the Weimar Republic—is the part played by the army command in foreign policy and its connections with the *Auswärtige Amt* in influencing and shaping that policy. What the author demonstrates in great detail is that there was a significant rapprochement between the *Wilhelmstrasse* and the *Bendlerstrasse* after the dismissal of General von Seeckt in 1926. The new leaders of the army—above all Generals Groener and Schleicher—aimed at cooperation with the government (but not with parliament), whereas Seeckt had ignored or opposed the government as well as the Foreign Office "when its policies clashed with what he considered to be the Army's interests" (p. 172). His successors won over the Foreign Office to the army's policy of close military cooperation with Soviet Russia. The Foreign Office also supported the army's illegal measures for the defense of the eastern frontier and its plans for mobilization. Indeed, the one constant factor was the army's bitter hostility to Poland and its determination to revise the eastern frontiers in Germany's favor, if and when an opportunity presented itself. Since this was also the policy of the government, no conflict could arise on that score. It is well known that in this respect there was fairly close cooperation between the army leaders and the *Auswärtige Amt*, especially during the years 1926 to 1930; the reader may have the uneasy feeling that the author has studied a vast number of German records and produced a long book to dot the i's and cross the t's. But Dr. Post differs from other historians in claim-