

FRITZ: THE STORY OF A POLITICAL ASSASSIN. By *Ronald Florence*. New York: Dial Press, 1971. viii, 337 pp. \$8.95.

"Fritz" is Fritz Adler, the man who in October 1916 assassinated Count Stürgkh as a demonstration against the war and the oppressive internal regime in Austria, for which he held Stürgkh responsible. It was the one effective act of his life, which otherwise was a story of frustrations. The son of the famous Viktor Adler, re-founder and thereafter leader of the Austrian Social Democratic Party, he imbibed in infancy a dedicated devotion to the causes of international socialism and pacifism, but his difficult and uncompromising character kept him at loggerheads with the leaders of the party—the disputes reaching a climax when the party, like the German party and others, refused to take a stand against war in 1914. Condemned to death—as he expected and perhaps hoped—for his act, amnestied, and released in 1918, he again proved to be a lone wolf in Austrian politics, and his efforts to revive the old International came to little. He died, almost forgotten, in 1960.

Dr. Florence's work is based on a painstaking study of Adler's personal papers, and on the accounts of his trial, which he himself made the occasion for a lengthy profession of faith and denunciation of the regime. This part of the book, which includes a description of Adler's unexpected scientific interests, is sympathetically done and contains much new material, since strangely enough no one else had hitherto found Adler's life deserving of a full-length study. Even these pages hardly constitute a full biography, for the whole forty-two years from 1918 to 1960 are dismissed in eight pages, only five of them about Adler. When the author ventures into wider fields, he is not very happy. His book gives only the most summary account of Adler's party, of the living conditions of the Austrian workers, or even of the regime which provoked Adler to his act; on the other hand, there are irrelevancies, such as a description of Emperor Francis Joseph's funeral and his successor's act of abdication. There are a good many factual mistakes: to mention only one, the Emperor Charles was not the younger brother of Francis Ferdinand (p. 206), but his nephew. The style is fluent but somewhat theatrical; the effect is most satisfactory when the events described, such as the assassination and subsequent trial, were themselves dramatic.

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HISTORIA POLSKI, 1795–1918. By *Stefan Kieniewicz*. Warsaw: Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, 1968. 611 pp. 72 zł.

This large textbook is the second volume of the yet unfinished three-volume history of Poland published in Warsaw. Covering the period from partitions to the re-emergence of the Polish state in 1918, it reflects the predominant trend in present-day Polish historiography. Its author, an outstanding and most prolific writer, has contributed a large number of books on the nineteenth century. To the English reader he should be known for his *Emancipation of the Polish Peasantry* (Chicago, 1969) and for a section in the *History of Poland* (Warsaw, 1968), of which he was also chief editor.

The present volume is meant for university students and represents a synthetic treatment of the period. Only one other book exists in Polish which immediately invites comparison—the study by Marian Kukiel, *Dzieje Polski porozbiorowe, 1795–1921*, published in London in 1961. These books are comparable in size and in

excellence of writing. They differ, however, in their interpretations. While Kukiel's work continues prewar Polish historical writing, enriched by postwar research and publications, and is distinguished by balanced judgments, Kieniewicz's book represents Polish Marxist historiography at its best. Although this reviewer stands much closer to Kukiel than to Kieniewicz in his views on nineteenth-century Polish history, he has to recognize many excellent qualities in Kieniewicz's textbook. Its organization is clear, and the periodization, which departs a little from earlier Marxist divisions, is acceptable. The four main parts deal respectively with the period of the Napoleonic Wars and the Constitutional Congress Kingdom (1795–1831), the three decades from 1832 to 1864, the post-January insurrection period to around 1890, and the twenty-eight years including the First World War. The titles of the last three sections—"Crisis of the Feudal Regime: The Spring of Nations and the January Insurrection," "The Period of Triple Loyalty, Organic Work, and the Beginnings of the Workers' Movement," and "On the Threshold of the Imperialist Era, New Political Camps, the Year 1905, and the First World War"—reflect the author's emphasis on socioeconomic rather than strictly political problems. A welcome novelty is a separate treatment of cultural matters in four short chapters following each main division. Chronological tables at the end of the volume are definitely useful for the student. A selected bibliography is fairly satisfactory, although one would wish to see references to Perl's work on socialism, to Askenazy's *Uwagi*, and to the main memoirs or political writings by Piłsudski, Dmowski, Daszyński, Grabski, Biliński, Sokolnicki, and others.

In keeping with current trends in Polish historiography a good deal is said about the western Polish lands not included in the prepartition frontiers and much less about the eastern Lithuanian, Belorussian, and Ukrainian borderlands. But again a rather balanced approach by Kieniewicz saves the book from the obvious pitfalls. A short review does not permit polemics with the author concerning many interpretations of people and events, but judging the book in the context of contemporary Polish historiography, it has undoubted merits. It is well written and informative, and also has good maps, graphs, and illustrations and an attractive format.

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POLSKO-CZECHOSŁOWACKIE STOSUNKI DYPLOMATYCZNE W LATACH 1918–1925. By *Alina Szklarska-Lohmannowa*. Prace Komisji Nauk Historycznych, no. 19. Wrocław, Warsaw, Kraków: Ossolineum, 1967. 180 pp. 35 zł., paper.

This monograph is the most comprehensive and objective account of Polish-Czechoslovak diplomatic relations during the crucial years 1918–25 to be published in Eastern Europe. The author sketches the sad chapter of the two West Slavic states' embroilment in, and exacerbation of, the Teschen territorial question and the dispute over the small mountain areas of Spisz (Spiš), Orawa (Orava), and Javorina (Jaworzyna, in Polish) during the early interwar period.

The story of those years is familiar enough to the student of East Central Europe, and it cannot be said that Szklarska-Lohmannowa adds much strikingly new detail. But instead of another "reinterpretation," the author has written the first up-to-date synthesis of Polish-Czechoslovak relations, using the works of such