

Hungary, Poland, Rumania, and Yugoslavia; the designs and actions of Hitler and Mussolini in East Central Europe; and, finally, those familiar yet still compelling crises—the assassinations of Dollfuss, Barthou, and King Alexander of Yugoslavia, the remilitarization of the Rhineland, the Anschluss, and Munich. Unfortunately, we do not learn much that is new about these subjects. The treatment of French diplomacy is not very sophisticated and is not based on intensive research. The Anschluss and Munich crises are so compressed as to be almost unrecognizable. For example, the Anschluss is described in a paragraph (p. 203): Schuschnigg's famous interview with Hitler is dated March 12; the next event presented by the author is a statement of the Czech foreign minister, Krofta; and the final event presented is the placing of Schuschnigg under house arrest by the German occupation troops, on March 13. Brevity is commendable but not at this price. The sources used by the author are almost entirely secondary and even these are by no means exhaustive. Missing, for example, are the French parliamentary investigation, *Rapport fait au Nom de la Commission chargée d'Enquêter sur les événements survenus en France de 1933 à 1945*, 11 vols., and the important memoirs of Édouard Herriot, Jules Laroche, Julius Lukasiewicz, Count Jan Szembek, and Baron Pompeo Aloisi.

The author correctly points out the haphazard and disjointed nature of French policies toward the East Central European states, including those states which were France's allies, and criticizes the failure of the French to appreciate that their allies had interests other than the ties with France. The author's best chapters are those on the policies of Hungary's rightist prime minister during 1932–36, Julius Gömbös, and on the fall from power in 1936 of Rumania's anti-Fascist foreign minister, Nicolas Titulescu. It is regrettable that Anthony Tihamer Komjathy did not concentrate on the view from Budapest and Bucharest.

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QUEST FOR A NEW CENTRAL EUROPE: A SYMPOSIUM. Edited by *Julius Varsányi*, assisted by *Stephen Krassay*. Adelaide and Sydney: Australian Carpathian Federation, [n.d.], viii, 295 pp.

This volume is the product of a group of intellectuals devoted to the idea of a collective and independent future for the peoples living between the German and Russian domains in Europe. It deals primarily with the region known as Eastern Europe, or as some prefer to call it, East Central Europe. The essays presented are for the most part works of synthesis rather than the specialized papers usually featured in scholarly symposia.

The book's first part offers background studies on East Central Europe's geography, history, economic potential, and nationality problems. The second part presents essays on the sociological, political, economic, constitutional, ethnic, and legal aspects and implications of a possible East Central European federation. The volume's editor and contributors are aware of present-day political realities and make no attempt to construct a plan for the creation of a federal union of the East Central European states. Believing that neutralization and free integration of the area would be the best solution for East and West, as well as for the region's peoples, they simply explore the question, and all its ramifications, in anticipation of a possible political reorganization of Central Europe in the future.

The volume is an ambitious undertaking and the result is quite satisfactory. The editor was able to attract several experienced contributors in a variety of fields. Most of them are natives to the region discussed, but others—such as David St. L. Kelly of the University of Adelaide, the author of the collection's most impressive essay—also make valuable contributions.

Many collaborative efforts suffer from three faults: a poor allocation of subject matter, an uneven quality of scholarship, and a lack of uniformity in format and footnoting. Varsányi's volume is plagued mainly by the last two of these imperfections. The level of the contributors' scholarship varies greatly, and there is considerable diversity in organization, format, and the handling of references.

Besides offering several impressive and stimulating essays (along with a few rather undistinguished ones), this attractively produced book presents a great deal of information which will be useful to all students of East Central Europe.

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LANDWIRTSCHAFTLICHE ZIRKEL UND LANDWIRTSCHAFTLICHE PRODUKTIONSGENOSSENSCHAFTEN IN POLEN. By *Stanisława Hegenbarth*. *Osteuropastudien der Hochschulen des Landes Hessen*, series 1. *Giessener Abhandlungen zur Agrar- und Wirtschaftsforschung des europäischen Ostens*, vol. 72. Berlin: Duncker & Humblot in Kommission, 1976. 193 pp. Tables. Figures. Paper.

The first two chapters of this highly informative book are devoted to a detailed description of the development, formal organization, and activity of the two basic forms of Polish cooperative farming—the agricultural “circles” and the cooperative farms. The descriptive material is related to official farm policy developments since 1956 and especially to the government's central dilemma: the need to reconcile the peasantry to a social order responsible during the collectivization period for much suffering, while still keeping alive, despite the far-reaching policy changes after 1956, a commitment to the full socialization of agriculture at some future date.

Skillful use is made of Polish sociological studies of the farm sector, particularly those which analyze the attitudes of the farmers themselves toward the officially approved institutions which determine their activity—the circles in the case of private peasants, and the cooperative farms in the case of members of the cooperatives. In the latter case, the author brings out the fact that the skepticism of the members themselves concerning aspects other than the material benefits they derive from membership—notably a steady job—is paralleled by the negative attitudes toward the cooperatives held by private peasants. Therefore, further socialization of farming will depend largely on the continued acceptability of the circles to the private peasant. Mention is made, however, of recent policies which appear to entail transformation of the circles from loose associations of independent farmers into economically efficient enterprises directed by appointed specialists rather than by officers elected from among the members of individual circles. As the author points out, this development has now been under way for several years. But she also notes that the less flexible and more impersonal organizations created under this system would run counter to the private farmers' wishes as noted in the sociological surveys available.

The author accepts as inevitable the ultimate socialization of farming in Poland (p. 157), but this belief, which is supported by the continuing decline in the agricultural area farmed privately, may be too pessimistic. Since 1960, the decline in the area privately farmed has averaged only about 100 thousand hectares annually—or about 6 percent in total. Though the rate has risen in recent years, the decision (after this book was written) not to make the surrender of an elderly or incapacitated farmer's land to the socialized sector a precondition of a pension should slow it down again. New legislation to facilitate the transfer of land within the private sector—in line with the encouragement of larger private peasant farms—will increase the attractiveness of private farming, although possibly at the cost of an accelerated reduction in the number