

DUBROVNIK IN THE 14TH AND 15TH CENTURIES: A CITY BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. By *Bariša Krekić*. The Centers of Civilization Series, vol. 30. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1972. xi, 191 pp. \$3.50.

Ragusium, Ragusa, Dubrovnik—"Jewel of the Adriatic," once a proud city-republic but now a cultural relic and tourist center—is a city of lasting architectural charm and natural beauty that played a fascinating role as a commercial and cultural link between the Balkan and Mediterranean worlds. It is precisely this role that Bariša Krekić emphasizes, and in doing so he has produced a work only a scholar with a profound firsthand knowledge of Dubrovnik's rich archival sources could have written; and his book, like the city itself, is a gem—small, unpretentious, but of great value.

As Krekić informs us in his preface and in the very useful bibliographical essay, no acceptable history of Dubrovnik exists in any language, although there is a voluminous literature, chiefly in Serbo-Croatian, on various facets of the city's past. Even though the work under review does not aim to fill this void, but "to show the city at a limited, though crucial, time of its development" (p. vii), it is the best historical survey of Dubrovnik available in any Western language. This is not the usual encyclopedic recitation of names, dates, facts, and figures, dutifully rehashed from secondary sources, but a small volume of striking originality.

Because of his heavy reliance on primary sources, Krekić is able to give a remarkably fresh and vivid account of his native city's history. We learn, for example, not only of the extensive importing of textiles from the West, but of the presence of Western tailors in Dubrovnik: "In 1421 a tailor from Savoy, another from Britain, and a third from Brabant, and a fourth from Zadar opened a shop in Dubrovnik, having formed a society for four years" (p. 150). Socialized medicine, it seems, existed here as early as the fourteenth century. Physicians, mostly Italians, were salaried by the city government, and were forbidden to take fees except from foreigners: "As for the Ragusans, the physicians were obliged to treat them all—the count or rector, the archbishop and noblemen, priests, nuns, and friars, merchants, sailors, and peasants, men and women—without any compensation at all" (p. 92). Interior layout in house design is discussed in some detail, including the various locations of the kitchen and the toilet: "Sometimes the toilet was located in a wooden addition to the outer wall of the uppermost floor of the house, but, since this was unhygienic, the government tried to abolish it" (p. 152). As for sleeping arrangements, we learn that beds came into use by the thirteenth century, usually accommodating several people (since bed linen was a luxury, they usually slept in their clothes). Certainly the author's analysis of the role of women in Dubrovnik, as sympathetic as it is, will gain no kudos from Women's Liberation: "It can be said that in Dubrovnik, as in Venice, women were largely responsible for the city's greatness and its achievements through the unobtrusive and quiet support they gave to the men of the city in their endeavors" (pp. 157–58).

In sum, this is a balanced and well-organized treatment of the subject, which provides the reader with a solid understanding of Dubrovnik's survival among more powerful neighbors. Unfortunately the author devotes less than two pages to Ragusan belles-lettres, but as he correctly points out, the major developments in dramaturgy and poetry occurred later. I have only one minor objection, and that is to the author's repeated use of the broad linguistic term "Slavic" when he clearly means

Serbo-Croatian. Despite the present bitter language schism in Yugoslavia, Serbo-Croatian remains a completely legitimate term for the language (and the numerous dialects) of the Serbs and the Croats, whether of the fourteenth or the twentieth century.

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BUSINESS CYCLES IN YUGOSLAVIA. By *Branko Horvat*. Translated by *Helen M. Kramer*. White Plains, N.Y.: International Arts and Sciences Press, 1971. x, 259 pp. \$15.00.

Branko Horvat has very definite views on what should and should not be done to the Yugoslav economy. He believes that much of the country's apparent economic instability can be directly attributed to mistaken intervention by the government. The problems are compounded because the Yugoslav economy is being opened up just when the world finds itself on the downward phase of a secular Kondratiev cycle. The five cycles discussed in the study present the following picture:

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| Cycle I | New Economic System (1) | III/1949–III/1955 |
| Cycle II | Transition to Second Five-Year Plan | III/1955–II/1958 |
| Cycle III | New System of Income Distribution | II/1958–IV/1960 |
| Cycle IV | New Economic System (2) | IV/1960–I/1965 |
| Cycle V | Economic Reform | I/1965–? |

The first, fourth, and fifth cycles were conditioned by economic reforms; the second, by remedy for inflation; the third, by uncontrolled expansion of imports. Two characteristics are held to be common to all but the first cycle, initiated as a result of a search for a new economic system. One is that the cycle came about as a result of problems arising from international trade. The other is that the difficulties were compounded by the premature initiation of reforms. Premature in the sense, apparently, that reforms were initiated in the retardation phase of the cycle.

The reader is provided with interesting calculations on the consequences of various regulations. For example, we are told that at a level "of social product (excluding agriculture) of 7,000 billion old dinars, one excess regulation monthly costs the Yugoslav economy about 100 billion old dinars annually, on the average" (p. 187). We are also told, "The present Yugoslav economy is truly a market economy and very different from the rigid, semi-administration economy of ten years ago, not to mention earlier periods. But it appears that this has not been noted, and old conceptions, bureaucratic approaches, intuitive ad hoc solutions, short-run pragmatism, and neglect of scientific economic research continue to burden Yugoslav economic policy. A market economy is like a precious machine, highly productive but sensitive. A skilled worker can attain exceptional results with it. When there is inept leadership, waste and breakdown occur" (p. 190). In all, the author has produced an interesting picture of economic cycles in postwar Yugoslavia.

My reservations are not so much over the description of these cycles as they are with the author's attempts to distribute the blame for their occurrence. I would argue that Yugoslavia's cyclical problems are intensified if not indeed generated by the failure of external markets, especially capital markets, adequately and accu-