

tactics of the KSS during the period of Nazi-Soviet cooperation in 1939–41, when it endorsed Slovak independence and later the absorption of “Soviet Slovakia” into the Soviet Union on the model of the Baltic republics. Nor does he elucidate Soviet policy much, although he does bring to light important evidence for the responsibility of Soviet partisans in Slovakia for precipitating the Slovak National Uprising prematurely and thus condemning it to defeat.

Altogether, despite its blatantly partisan approach and highly subjective personal views, Husák’s book constitutes an important contribution to the historiography of the Slovak resistance movement in World War II.

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A RÁKÓCZI-SZABADSÁGHARC ÉS EURÓPA. Edited by *Béla Köpeczi*.  
 Budapest: Gondolat, 1970. 390 pp. 36 Ft.

Köpeczi, a specialist in the international relations of Prince Ferenc Rákóczi’s government, has already produced a great deal of material on the subject. *A Rákóczi-szabadságharc és Európa*, his major work, was first published in 1966. Like all Marxist and pre-Marxist Hungarian historians, he speaks of the Rákóczi war of 1703–11 as a war of independence rather than as the Rákóczi Rebellion, the term disparagingly used by Austrian historians and in contemporary Habsburg diplomatic writings. Contemporary Habsburg publicists denied that the rest of Europe showed any interest or concern for the Rákóczi war, but the editor concludes differently: “All the accounts, I think, give abundant testimony that the Hungarian War of Independence did not want for European echoes, as some researchers have claimed” (p. 29).

Such, then, is Köpeczi’s theme. His technique is to reprint contemporary documents, either in their original Hungarian or in Hungarian translations of those that were originally written in Latin, French, English, or German. All the translations, glosses, and introductions for each document are the work of the elite of Hungary’s historians, foremost among them Domokos Kosáry and Kálmán Benda, who are well known to students of the area. They are joined by László András, Katalin Krén, Gábor Hajnal, István Jánosy, and Béla Holl (in the order in which their work appears).

Two kinds of documents are included. First there are the Rákóczi government’s manifestoes and other publications. Of these there are many, for “the Prince [Rákóczi] was convinced from early on of the importance of information activities at home and abroad in order to persuade the public of the justice [of the cause] of the insurgent Hungarians” (p. 8). The most notable of these documents is Rákóczi’s manifesto, drafted by his confidential secretary Pál Ráday early in 1704, which has become known to history by the first word of its text: “Recrudescunt . . .” (“Inclytæ Gentis Hungariæ vulnera . . .”) (pp. 33–46).

The other documents included in the book illustrate European reaction to the war and to the Rákóczi government’s pronouncements. The French publications, of course, were very sympathetic toward Rákóczi, who was an ally of Louis XIV. The most remarkable West European commentaries, however, are contained in a series of articles written by Daniel Defoe between September 2 and December 5, 1704, and published in his own *Review of the Affairs of France*. Not a single issue of the weekly came out during that period without an article on the Hungarian situa-

tion, reflecting the official views of the English government, which were, predictably, inimical to the ally of England's foe, Louis XIV. Yet Defoe could not always hide his contempt for the Habsburg suppression of Hungary's liberties and of the freedom of worship of his coreligionists, the Protestants of Hungary.

These latter documents cover a wide range of views: Protestant writers and those friendly toward France supported Rákóczi; those favoring the Habsburgs were hostile toward him. Köpeczi says, "We selected such documents as were in our view characteristic and at the same time easy to understand because they were least burdened by long successions of legal and historical arguments" (p. 30). With that editorial criterion, it is likely that the documents were chosen for a general readership rather than to illuminate the issue on a more sophisticated level. Within that framework, however, the book affords an objective, well-balanced, informative, and precise view of the Rákóczi years.

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STEPHEN SZÉCHENYI AND THE AWAKENING OF HUNGARIAN NATIONALISM, 1791–1841. By *George Barany*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1968. xviii, 487 pp. \$15.00.

Széchenyi's life was replete with paradoxes. A rich aristocrat and cosmopolitan who remained unwaveringly loyal to the Habsburg dynasty, a man who till the age of thirty hardly knew Hungarian and was scarcely familiar with his "fatherland," he was to become the national awakener of modern Hungary. An idealist whose entire life was ruled by faith in divine justice and a Christian perfectionism, he became a founder of a capitalist economy. An economic, social, and constitutional reformer and apostle of modern nationalism, he was taken aback when the social and political forces of modern nationalism broke through the dams of slow, systematic "reform from above." He was torn between the agonizing alternatives of a rigid, absolutistic administration and a sweeping liberal opposition movement, between a reaction jeopardizing all his reform work and revolutionary anarchy. The final question, "whether reform sincerely accepted and intelligently applied in time could be a substitute for either strong-fisted absolutism or revolution," is a relevant one for the modern twentieth-century reader.

The interest of the reader is aroused in the introductory pages, and it is sustained to the end of the book. Barany uses fully all the ingredients of modern analytic biography. The son's faithfully obedient and still critical relations with his father, his religious and humanist upbringing, the fascinating light-minded Viennese high society of the 1810s, the alarming experiences of a long military service, the broadening horizons during foreign travels, uncontrollable Eros and self-torturing guilts—these are the threads out of which the author weaves, with deep psychological feeling and fine human sympathy, the early portrait. In the picture of the mature Széchenyi, the author emphasizes the struggles of an active, constructive life, and the collisions of a hostile, suspicious, or applauding outer world and a politically tough but spiritually hypersensitive inner constitution. Perhaps the deepest, most impressive section of the book deals with the transition between these two phases of Széchenyi's life.

The book is based on thorough research. The 1,500 footnotes embrace the entire