

PRVA ODLOČITEV SLOVENCEV ZA JUGOSLAVIJO: POLITIKA NA DOMAČIH TLEH MED VOJNO, 1914–1918. By *Janko Pleterški*. Ljubljana: Slovenska Matica, 1971. 324 pp. 84 new dinars.

This book describes the process by which the political leadership of the Slovene nation gravitated during the course of World War I toward an acceptance of the idea that the Slovenes should seek the resolution of their national question within the framework of an independent Yugoslav state. Pleterški concentrates on events in Slovenia, then part of the Austrian half of the Habsburg Monarchy, for it is his thesis that the Slovene decision to opt for participation in a Yugoslav state was indigenous and was at most peripherally affected by such groups as the Yugoslav Committee in London and Slovene immigrant groups in the United States and elsewhere. The book begins with the Slovene reaction to the murder of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and the start of the war and concludes with the de facto collapse of Habsburg authority in Slovenia at the end of October 1918. This is an unfortunate ending point, for Pleterški thereby completely ignores the intense activity carried on by the Slovenes during November 1918 to bring about the creation of Yugoslavia, which eventually occurred on December 1, 1918.

Pleterški's study is nevertheless a superb contribution to twentieth-century Slovene and Yugoslav history and should be required reading for anyone who wishes a fuller understanding of what lay behind the Slovene pressure for a Yugoslav state from the summer of 1918 forward. The principal factor, it is clear from Pleterški's account, was the growing sense of concern the Slovenes felt at being cast adrift by a possible collapse of the Habsburg Monarchy and the danger that in the absence of a Yugoslavia to fill the vacuum Slovene territory would be partitioned between the German Austrians and the Italians. For the Slovenes, especially after the Habsburg collapse in late October 1918, a Yugoslav state became a vital necessity. This is why Pleterški's refusal to extend his study to December 1, 1918, is so serious an omission. In addition, Pleterški generally ignores one other crucial matter throughout his study. If there was one option which the Slovene leadership, irrespective of political conviction, did not earnestly consider in the summer and autumn of 1918, it was the question of an independent Slovenia. A full discussion of what was behind this explicit rejection of complete national sovereignty would have added greatly to the value of this study.

In summary, it is important to reiterate that though a reader may quibble about details or interpretations, this book is based on an exhaustive use of available archival and secondary source materials and is a professional work of scholarship.

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THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE: THE CLASSICAL AGE, 1300–1600. By *Halil İnalcık*. Translated by *Norman Itzkowitz* and *Colin Imber*. New York and Washington: Praeger, 1973. xii, 258 pp. \$15.00.

The best-informed modern survey of Ottoman history, this is a work to brighten the eyes of anyone interested in the subject, especially those who teach it. The book includes an initial narrative section, followed by topically organized sections on "The State," "Economic and Social Life," and "Religion and Culture." The text is supplemented by outstanding illustrations, charts and maps, glossary, chronology,

brief notes, and an excellent "Selected Bibliography." The work of a master, this is a book from which both scholar and beginning student can profit.

There are nonetheless certain problems which should be mentioned. The limitation of the period covered means that the study only partly fills the existing need. Merely to extend the coverage to about 1800, for example, would bring in the problem of decline, on which the author has already written incisively, and take the account to the point at which responsibility for carrying on could be turned over to the modernists. The publisher's restriction of the text to two hundred pages obviously stands in the way of such extension and does a great deal to impoverish the work. Though the division of the text into chronological and topical sections is laudable in a field usually treated solely as *histoire bataille*, the enforced brevity of part 1 makes the account hard to assimilate. The same problem is observable to a degree in the topical sections, where it tends to be compounded by the extremely limited development of scholarship in certain areas, especially intellectual history.

At least as disturbing are lapses by the editors or translators. Such practices as not capitalizing the adjective Near Eastern and italicizing terms that are listed in the glossary only when they first appear in the text are eccentric at best. Errors in grammar and typography are also too frequent. For example, "tasr" appears instead of "tsar" twice on pages 39–40; "where else we go?" ("can" is omitted) on page 91; "he drunk [*sic*] wine" (p. 99); "a sancak bey's annual income was equalled from [*sic*] four to twelve thousand" (p. 115).

This is a book that will become a standard reference wherever Ottoman history is studied or taught. It is to be hoped that it will be expanded and reissued in a more carefully edited and moderately priced paperback edition as soon as possible.

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FROM PARIS TO SÈVRES: THE PARTITION OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE AT THE PEACE CONFERENCE OF 1919–1920. By *Paul C. Helmreich*. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1974. xiii, 376 pp. \$15.00.

Although aspects of the negotiation of the Treaty of Sèvres have been examined in recent scholarly works, until now there has been no systematic study of the whole. Professor Helmreich has done it, using the voluminous published sources and the recently opened British Foreign Office and Cabinet papers, as well as the private papers of Lloyd George, House, Sonnino, and others. His work is not definitive, since French and Italian archives ought to furnish some significant additions when they are freely available, but from the British side it may be nearly so.

Helmreich covers the whole range of problems included in the treaty with the Ottoman Empire: Syria and Palestine, Mosul, Armenia, Kurdistan, Constantinople and the Straits, the Greek expansion into Thrace and Smyrna, the rump Turkish state, Italian spheres of influence, and oil (of minor importance then). No startling revelations appear, but much new detail is presented, along with a competent analysis of the Anglo-French negotiations that were at the heart of the whole treaty-making process. The roles of the United States and Italy, although important at times, were distinctly secondary.

The principal merit of the book is its emphasis on the Anglo-French negotiation in the fall and winter of 1919 and through the London conference of February