

unpersons as the "bourgeois" literary critic Dr. Krüst'o Krüstev and the "bourgeois" literary historian Boian Penev, and also that quintessentially symbolist poet Teodor Traianov. Moreover, such figures have been assigned for the most part to scholars generally sympathetic toward their work. Thus Zdravko Petrov's chapter of around thirteen pages on Traianov is interesting and erudite and contains a number of apt observations; it emphasizes *Panteon*, however, published in the 1930s, and Traianov's romantic roots, and avoids the more general question of symbolism's place in Bulgarian literary history. Nevertheless, it advances the process of symbolism's rehabilitation in the eyes of Bulgarian scholars and represents a fuller approximation to historical objectivity in dealing with such subjects. In her essay on the symbolist Emanuil Popdimitrov, Rozaliia Likova comes considerably shorter of objectivity than Petrov: she constantly speaks of "contradictions" in his work after his divergence from the Communists in the mid-1920s, ignores almost totally the religious element in his writing, and so forth. But she is nevertheless generally well disposed toward the subject of her essay (the only one she has contributed to this volume), and with time the Bulgarian scholarly world may arrive at a more objective public evaluation of him. In sum, the fetters of ideology are still fastened upon this collection, but they are now a burden more lightly borne. Certainly this volume, like those preceding it, should be in the library of every serious student of Bulgarian literature.

The book is equipped with a detailed index and an extensive selected bibliography, which is, however, limited almost exclusively to works in Bulgarian, with a few Russian items included.

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BULGARIA UNDER COMMUNIST RULE. By *J. F. Brown*. New York, Washington, and London: Praeger Publishers, 1970. ix, 338 pp. \$11.00.

J. F. Brown, director of the East European Research Department of Radio Free Europe in Munich, presents in this book a comprehensive account of communism in Bulgaria in the last two decades. Brown is a veteran observer of the East European political scene. His previous works include *The New Eastern Europe* and numerous articles on Communist affairs.

The once volatile Bulgarians have remained politically docile during the last generation. Bulgaria has neither deviated from the political standards set by the Soviet Union nor produced visible internal combustions of any consequence. Her immobilism has left her in the shadows of European politics. The turmoils of the early years of sovietization have calmed to a state of apparent acceptance of Communist dominion and Moscow's overlordship. As a result, Bulgaria has remained almost entirely neglected in Western scholarship. All too often the attention of the serious academic community specializing in contemporary politics is geared to crisis situations. But Brown's *Bulgaria Under Communist Rule* offers excellent proof of the intrinsic importance of scholarship directed toward clarifying the nonsensational spheres of sociopolitical interactions.

The book under review makes no particular claim on the period of Bulgaria's sovietization. The years between 1944, when the country was occupied by the Red Army, and the death of Stalin are summed up in a brief opening chapter. The history of these eventful years is yet to be written. The impact of Stalin's death on

the Bulgarian Communist hierarchy is well analyzed in Brown's work. Bulgaria's experimentation with a "new course" of her own is dealt with in detail. The death of Stalin shook Chervenkov's hegemony. Yet the Bulgarians required an entire decade to get free of his tyrannic grip. The gradual rise to power in the fifties of the little gray Communist bureaucrats is traced in detail. Brown succeeds in preserving an admirable objectivity when treating the Zhivkov era.

Brown's book successfully resolves the eternal problem of reconciling the chronological survey with the functional problems of politics. The economic problems, Bulgaria's cultural and educational scene, and the relation between the Communist Party and the Communist state are covered in separate chapters without interfering with the general flow of political events. Brown's endeavor to tackle the intricate workings of politics on the local level is exemplary.

The attention given to the literary ferment in the mid-fifties should be singled out. Although abortive in the long run, the energies mustered by the Bulgarian literary revisionists demonstrated the hidden resources which the Bulgarian Communist elite was able to preserve in the face of great odds. The book is at its best in dealing with this sensitive aspect of psychopolitics. A second sphere of particular interest is the analysis of Bulgaria's "great leap forward." This amazing venture, unique in East European history, is made comprehensible thanks to Brown's careful demarcation between the inner impulses of traditional Bulgarian communism and the possible inspirations emanating from Mao's China.

Although most of the relevant evidence is dutifully presented, the author could have gone one step further and endeavored to suggest why Bulgaria, unlike most East European countries, remains boxed in and politically stagnant. At the same time, he is altogether successful in portraying the significant socioeconomic changes that have taken place in this once traditional agricultural society beneath the political frost that has encapsulated Bulgaria for the last twenty years. The author has relied heavily on the current Bulgarian press and less so on the extensive monograph literature produced in Bulgaria. These limitations are reflected in the brief bibliography. One would have wished for a more detailed index going beyond the rudimentary index of names. Still, since the specialist is bound to read the book from cover to cover—as he must—these technical limitations are of no great significance. Because of the high quality of scholarship, Brown's book will certainly take its due place alongside the more significant studies on East European politics.

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CONTRIBUTION A L'HISTOIRE DU COMMERCE DE LA TURQUIE ET DE LA BULGARIE. Vol. 6: AUTEURS FRANÇAIS, ALLEMANDS ET ANGLAIS. By *Nikola V. Mikhov* [*Nicolas V. Mikhoff*]. Sofia: Izdatelstvo na Bŭlgarskata akademiia na naukite, 1970. 573 pp. 5.42 lv.

Mikhov's posthumous sixth volume is as valuable as his earlier collections of documents. Consisting of generally well-chosen passages from published but sometimes not easily accessible books and periodicals, the present volume includes 179 items—eighty-three in German, seventy-seven in French, eighteen in English, and one in Italian. Among the more familiar authors in the collection are Louis-Auguste Félix de Beaujour, Guillaume-Antoine Olivier, F. C. H. L. Pouqueville, E.-M.