

From the *Slavic Review* Editorial Board:

Slavic Review publishes letters to the editor with educational or research merit signed by individuals. Where the letter concerns a publication in *Slavic Review*, the author of the publication will be offered an opportunity to respond. Space limitations dictate that comment regarding a book review should be restricted to one paragraph of no more than 250 words; comment on an article or forum should not exceed 750 to 1,000 words. If we receive many letters on a topic, some letters may be published on the *Slavic Review* website with opportunities for further discussion. Letters may be submitted by e-mail, but a signed copy on official letterhead or with a complete return address must follow. The editor reserves the right to refuse to print, or to publish with cuts, letters that contain personal abuse or otherwise fail to meet the standards of debate expected in a scholarly journal.

To the Editor:

I was happy to read Igor Lukes's review of my political portrait of Vavro Šrobár in *Slavic Review* (vol. 74, no. 3), which overall is a fair and insightful expert review. However, I would like to take issue with one point.

Lukes writes that my "attempts to explain Šrobár's prejudice [i.e., antisemitism] seem less than persuasive" (616) and that "the domestic situation, including the destruction of Slovak Jews, is described without much depth and crucial detail" (617).

I dedicated a subchapter in my introduction to antisemitism, presenting a definition of the term and general information about antisemitism and the Shoah based on recent scholarly studies written by Slovak historians. Also, I discussed the pogrom in Piešťany in March 1939, when Slovakia was still part of Czechoslovakia. This pogrom was hitherto unknown to western academia. Šrobár's antisemitism was moderate; he changed his opinion after meeting Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk as a student in Prague, which I clearly state in a note referencing my earlier study on Šrobár.

Lukes's comments on my alleged failure to explain Šrobár's antisemitism create a distorted impression, insinuating that I did not take seriously the widespread anti-semitism in Slovakia at the time. Furthermore, my book is not a study of antisemitism but a political biography, which I clearly stated in my introduction, presenting the method of contextual biography.

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Professor Lukes chooses not to respond.