

societies. Jewish and East European history, twentieth-century scientific thought, and intellectual migration.

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MAGYARORSZÁG TÖRTÉNETE. Vol. 4: 1849–1918: AZ ABSZOLUTIZMUS ÉS A DUALIZMUS KORA. Edited by Péter Hanák, Tibor Erényi, and György Szabad. Magyar Tudományos Akadémia, Történettudományi Intézet. Budapest: Tankönyvkiadó, 1972. 663 pp. 76 Ft.

Younger students at Eastern Europe's universities learn from textbooks and from textbooks alone; therefore such works are of crucial significance. If the textbook is fairly objective and readable, as this one is, then a future generation of high school teachers may teach some good history. Considering that this volume, the fourth in a series on Hungarian history, was written by an authors' collective of eleven members recruited from Hungary's Institute of History, Institute of Party History, and Budapest University, its attractive style, honesty, and cohesion are nothing short of miraculous. The miracle is due mainly to Péter Hanák, an internationally known scholar and the volume's principal editor. It is true that the first part of the book, on the absolutist era between 1849 and 1867, was written by a single author, György Szabad of Budapest University, but the rest was shared by ten historians who wrote different sections in happy confusion. Thus László Katus wrote several chapters and subchapters on the Croats and the other nationalities; Edit S. Vincze inserted passages on the labor movement and Tibor Kolossa on economic development, while Péter Hanák, Zoltán Szász, István Dolmányos, Ferenc Pölöskei, József Galántai, and others wrote entire chronological chapters, but also short insertions in the work of fellow authors. The result is a vast treatise particularly long on political, economic, and social history, shorter on diplomatic affairs, and totally wanting in cultural developments. This latter unforgivable omission happened because the relevant author simply failed to deliver his manuscript on time. So much for the vagaries of mass collective authorship. This experience does not augur too well for the forthcoming ten-volume history of Hungary—an undertaking of the Hungarian Institute of History parceled out to almost a hundred authors.

The book under review is a balanced treatment of modern Hungarian history with none of the familiar clichés of the recent past. General Görgey of 1849 fame is no longer a traitor; Austria does not hold Dualistic Hungary in a state of semicolonial subjection; Hungarian workers are not wallowing in ever-increasing misery; and the Social Democrats do not invariably betray the workers. Instead, Hungary moves ineluctably toward rapid modernization. True, political developments for a long time remained steeped in conservative noble tradition; the big landowners became even bigger, and the small gentry landowners escaped ruin only by joining the army of bureaucrats; the Westernized bourgeoisie never asserted itself politically; the peasants and the non-Magyar nationalities were treated shabbily; and the intellectuals grew increasingly alienated from the political leadership.

But behind it all, or rather above it, towered the demographic, educational, agrarian, and industrial revolution. While politicians squabbled with Vienna and among themselves over such hoary questions as whether military commands should be barked in German or in Hungarian to the country's many Slavic and Rumanian

recruits who understood neither language, the mortality rate declined precipitously and the literacy level increased to a near-West European level. The density of the railway network surpassed that of France; the increase in agrarian production and productivity enabled Hungary to compete in the world market; domestic capital accumulation assured self-sustained development and the exportation of Hungarian capital to less-developed Balkan countries; Budapest became a cultural and industrial megalopolis; and Hungary grew into a self-confident and expansionist empire. Hungarian expansionism helped to bring about the First World War, although the country's share in that catastrophe was undoubtedly small. Domestic imperialism guaranteed the continuous discontent of the lower classes and of the non-Magyar nationalities. Yet capitalism knew no nationality: mines, factories, and efficient farms were established wherever conditions permitted, thus benefiting the Germans, Magyars, Slovaks, and Serbs of western and southern Hungary, while the Magyars, Slovaks, Ruthenians, and Rumanians of eastern Hungary lagged far behind. It was the assimilationist policy of the government, somewhat successful in the cities and a total failure in the countryside, which helped to bring about the ultimate dissolution of Great Hungary.

There are no startlingly new theories in this book, but there are some fine *aperçus*, especially by László Katus and the master stylist Péter Hanák. There is also a harvest of interesting details, as well as innumerable statistics, charts, maps, and tabulations. If nothing else, the inclusion of the "Jewish question," discussed at last by several of the authors, marks this textbook as a must not only for university students in Hungary but for all those interested in Hungary's turbulent history.

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A SZOCIOLÓGIA ELSŐ MAGYAR MŰHELYE: A HUSZADIK SZÁZAD  
KÖRE. Compiled by György Litván and László Szűcs. Budapest: Gondolat,  
1973. Vol. 1: 586 pp. Vol. 2: 582 pp. 85 Ft. for 2 vols.

This anthology (*The First Hungarian Workshop of Sociology: The Circle of Huszadik Század*) comprises two volumes of a long-neglected literature that deserves to be better known, both in Hungary and elsewhere. The journal *Huszadik Század* (*Twentieth Century*) was launched in Budapest in January 1900, at the initiative of a small group of enthusiastic young men led by Oszkár Jászi (1875–1957). Its purpose was twofold—to communicate new currents of thought in the social sciences, but especially sociology, to the wider, educated public at large, and to stimulate interchange and debate among the practitioners of the sciences themselves. During its heyday the journal fulfilled these purposes splendidly; one needs only to leaf casually through any volume of the journal (if he can find it!) to be quickly impressed with the amazing variety of ideas presented and with the authors' awareness of the best work being produced at that time anywhere in Europe or North America. Even more important, the volumes of *Huszadik Század* constituted a treasure trove of the critical application of these new ideas and methods to Hungarian conditions. One year after the first appearance of the journal, the Társadalomtudományi Társaság (Social Science Society) was also established, and *Huszadik Század* became its official organ.

From the very beginning *Huszadik Század* also partook of the nature of a sometimes-embattled cultural mission. Hungary at that time was ruled by an