

Nowadays, it might be thought cynical that "British politicians, generals and officials" were only concerned with "who was killing most Germans." It should be remembered, however, that in the early years of World War II the outcome was uncertain, and a high degree of realism was essential for survival. Of course, as British leaders had to be ruthless, so also did the resistance leaders. It was an era when the hallucination of divine righteousness touched many in brief authority, and when the SOE tended to suffer because many military leaders considered the SOE of only marginal use. One is intrigued by the comment of the chief of staff, SOE (Cairo), a brigadier, who told Fitzroy Maclean that he "would never go to Yugoslavia whatever the Commander-in-Chief, or the Prime Minister, or anyone else might say," and also by the snippet dropped by Fitzroy Maclean, somewhat relevant to the contemporary scene, that Lord Shelbourne, the minister responsible for the SOE, had suggested that he "take an oath of loyalty to the SOE"—which he declined to do.

This is one of the most interesting and rewarding books I have read recently on this period and part of the world. Countless facts, previously unknown, tumble from its pages. The words are straight from the lips of personalities who were actually involved in one or another of the aspects of British policy toward the resistance movements in Yugoslavia and Greece, and, therefore, contribute missing pieces to the still uncompleted puzzle of how the policy was formulated, how it evolved, and how it was put into mangled practice.

EDGAR O'BALLANCE

Wakebridge, Derbyshire, England

AN HISTORICAL GEOGRAPHY OF THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE: FROM EARLIEST TIMES TO THE END OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

By *Donald Edgar Pitcher*. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1972. x, 171 pp. + 36 maps. 275 Dglds.

Seldom does a reviewer have the pleasure to report on a volume that he considers outstanding enough not to require criticism, but only a description of its content. Pitcher's volume falls into this extremely rare category. It will certainly be welcomed by all scholars whose interest touches on any of the geographic regions that were part of the Ottoman Empire.

Pitcher's work consists of an introduction, nine chapters, thirty-six maps, and an index of place names. The introduction is bibliographical, citing the 303 titles and the twenty-three maps and atlases used as sources and references. Carefully grouped by time periods and regions, this introduction is a good, basic, introductory bibliography for Ottoman studies.

Each of the chapters is devoted to a specific period in Ottoman history and consists of a well-written brief description of major events and specific references to relevant maps. Supplementary information, in addition to the basic data, is given when required. Chapter 1 lists several cities and gives the dates when they changed rulers during the unstable twelfth century in Asia Minor. It also gives brief descriptions of each of the emirates that emerged at the end of this period and existed when the Ottoman expansion began early in the fourteenth century. Chapter 8 lists the vilayets existing in the early seventeenth century, with references to earlier and later periods. Because each chapter gives the names and dates of the sultans whose reigns are discussed, a complete list of Ottoman rulers is

also made available. These few examples demonstrate that the relatively short section devoted to descriptive material (143 pages) contains much valuable information that is not readily available elsewhere.

The index of place names not only indicates the maps on which the various localities can be found, together with the needed coordinates, but also gives their names in the various languages in which they were officially known throughout history. This feature will greatly help those who must try to identify a locality listed under different names in various works. The extraordinary detail of the index and the maps must also be stressed. It takes serious effort to find a locality or geographic feature, no matter how small, that was ever significant in Ottoman history, even if only momentarily, which is not identified in the index and located on at least one of the maps.

The maps, easy to read and beautifully drawn by K. Jordan, give much information beyond the basic features of physical geography. Military campaign routes, the changes of frontiers, the location of battle sites, and even the names of important rulers are entered on them, giving us truly historical maps of great value. It will be of great interest to the student of the Slav world, for example, to find, on Map 11, probably for the first time, the borders of Lazar's Serbia, Shishman's Bulgaria, and Marko Kraljević's realm during the second half of the fourteenth century. A student of the Balkans will find fifteen of the maps presented in the volume of special interest, for they give the exact location and identity (with the help of the index) of a great number of localities impossible to find in other historical, let alone contemporary, atlases.

We have before us, therefore, a long-needed, extremely valuable work which will certainly not be superseded for many years to come.

PETER F. SUGAR
University of Washington

ACTES DU XIV^e CONGRÈS INTERNATIONAL DES ÉTUDES BYZANTINES, vol. 1. Edited by *M. Berza* and *E. Stănescu*. Bucharest: Editura Academiei Republicii Socialiste România, 1974. 525 pp.

The nature of the present volume, as well as the space limits of a review, dictate that we confine our observations to a description rather than to a critical analysis of its contents. It includes messages, addresses, and papers read before the Fourteenth International Congress of Byzantine Studies held in Bucharest, September 6–12, 1971. Twenty-three countries were represented at the Congress with more than 550 scholars and representatives in attendance. The papers are of high scholarly quality and in several languages—English, French, German, Italian, and Russian.

The papers are classified according to the following themes: Society and Intellectual Life in the Fourteenth Century; Frontier and Frontier Regions from the Seventh to the Twelfth Century; the Profane Art of Byzantium; and Byzantium and Rumania.

The first section includes the following papers: I. Ševčenko (Dumbarton Oaks), "Society and Intellectual Life in the Fourteenth Century"; E. Werner (Leipzig), "Society and Culture in the Fourteenth Century: Socioeconomic Inquiry" (in German); John Meyendorff (St. Vladimir's Seminary), "Society and