

applied to Hungary—not in a book which purports to deal with Hungarian history in general rather than the history of Hungarian socialism in particular. Marxist analysis has a legitimate place along with other methods of historical inquiry, but its practitioners diminish rather than enhance the value of their work if they stress not what was significant but rather what appears to be so from the vantage point of the present.

GABOR VERMES  
Rutgers University

BUDAPEST 1956: A HISTORY OF THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION.

By *Miklós Molnár*. Translated by *Jennetta Ford*. London: George Allen & Unwin, 1968. 303 pp. £4.25.

The French original of this work was published in 1968 before the Prague Spring had been crushed. It provokes the question: what new is there to be written about this most extensively and intensively analyzed episode in modern Hungarian history? Can anything be added to the systematic and scholarly treatments of Ferenc A. Váli, Paul E. Zinner, and Paul Kecskeméti; with the publication of *Imre Nagy on Communism* what more is there to say; does anything remain to complement the accounts of the intellectuals who actually made the revolution, such as Tibor Méray and Tamás Aczél? The author, who is himself a member of this distinguished group, has shown that the lode is not exhausted.

Imre Nagy towers over the men and events of the time. He is shown to have been a moral giant but a lonely man whose solitude was greatest in October 1956, when his popularity was higher than any Hungarian's since Lajos Kossuth. The author's masterly, objective, and, one might say, honest portrayal of Nagy is of the same quality as his biography of him, which has already been published in several languages. His warmth for Nagy, however, does not prevent him from dealing with János Kádár and his system of government clearly, comprehensively, and correctly. It is this latter section of the book and the international framework in which Molnár sets the events in Hungary that are particularly interesting and original. Since the publication of Molnár's book an even fuller view of the international aspects of the revolution has been given by János Radványi in *Hungary and the Superpowers: The 1956 Revolution and Realpolitik*.

Nevertheless, Molnár's work establishes the complete interdependence of events in the people's democracies and their dependence on the will of the USSR. The logic of the Hungarian revolution and the rhythm of its development are part of an indissolubly interlinked chain of events: the ferment in the Soviet Union after Stalin's death, Imre Nagy's "new course" of 1953–55, the fall of Malenkov, the fall of Imre Nagy, the Twentieth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Poznań, the new Hungarian movement of defiance, inflexible neo-Stalinism, revolution in Hungary, ferment in Czechoslovakia, Rumania's own peculiar foreign policy.

The present book is an excellent, systematic, and scholarly treatment written with insight by a distinguished participant who is both a political scientist of eminence and an artist of the pen.

BÉLA K. KIRÁLY  
Brooklyn College of the City University of New York