

A SERBIAN VILLAGE IN HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE. By Joel M. Halpern and Barbara Kerewsky Halpern. *Case Studies in Cultural Anthropology*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1972. viii, 152 pp.

This case study of the Serbian village of Orašac from the standpoint of cultural anthropology is intended as a supplementary text for beginning and intermediate courses in the social sciences. Orašac has been a subject of the Halperns' study for over twenty years, beginning with his noted Ph.D. thesis, *A Serbian Village* (1958). The study under review is divided into six chapters: land and people; the *zadruga*; resources, economy, and changing occupations; living out lives; aspects of ritual life; and some reflections on change. The basic statistical material used are the censuses of 1863 and 1961—data which are better suited for analyzing population development than economic aspects of the village. Since Orašac has a lignite mine which was worked for several decades, the village is not a typical one up to the time of the industrialization push beginning in the late 1940s.

The Halperns cover a period of over a century during which Serbia and the village of Orašac have undergone tremendous political, socioeconomic, and psychological changes, and they touch upon all aspects of village life from the ritual at weddings to participation in political and social revolution, various aspects of modernization, and emigration for work abroad. Consequently they sketch rather than discuss their topics. Also the treatment is unbalanced: much more space is devoted to the wedding, *slava*, and Easter ritual and black magic than to agricultural cooperatives, government planning, and the village in wartime. In analyzing agriculture they rely too much on quotations. Most satisfactory is their treatment of the changing family relationships, relations between town and village, and the impact of the demonstration effect in the village.

Two problems bothered this reviewer: first, many generalizations, especially those dealing with Serbian values and those found in the chapter on change, are not sufficiently supported by evidence; second, in this book, as in Halpern's thesis, there is only scanty discussion of the civil war between 1941 and 1944 and the impact of Communist victory, although that war was undoubtedly the most traumatic experience in the history of the village, and the Communist victory affected every aspect of village life.

The study was not written for the specialist, but even beginners and those interested in a brief survey of the historical development of the Serbian village should be aware of its shortcomings.

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MEMOIR OF A REVOLUTIONARY. By Milovan Djilas. Translated by Drenka Willen. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1973. vii, 402 pp. \$12.00.

Milovan Djilas is the Dr. Johnson's walking dog of East European affairs: the surprising thing is not how well he has done what he has done, but that he has done it at all. Djilas is a good but not exceptional writer, a popular but not powerful theorist. Indeed, one of the remarkable things about this second volume of his autobiography, when one considers the heights Djilas scaled as a party ideologue, is the poverty of his intellectual concerns as a student. He polemized, demonstrated, and organized, but he does not seem to have read or speculated widely. He made a moral decision to transform Yugoslavia into a land with justice, and pursued