

Ottoman influence. Teleki used the insurgent movements as a means of strengthening his personal position and the status of Transylvania in international politics. Whenever the insurgents seemed to endanger Transylvanian interests, he firmly countered their activities. The Austrian victories of 1683 clearly justified Teleki's cautious Transylvanian diplomacy. They also dramatized the grave miscalculations of the Thököly movement and explained its subsequent decline as a serious political force.

The author has made good use of a variety of sources and documents. These include several manuscript collections of the Hungarian National Archives, memoirs, published documents, and monographic studies. Furthermore, the author's critical analysis of events and personages strengthens his interpretation substantially. The narrative's weakness is the tendency to cite superfluous material relating to incidents, events, and persons. The general reader would have appreciated more specific explanations of historic and thematic relationships. Nevertheless, for the Hungarian, Rumanian, and Ottoman specialist, Trócsányi's study offers indispensable data and fresh viewpoints on seventeenth-century Transylvanian politics.

PAUL BÖDY
Kingston, Ontario

A RENDTARTÓ SZÉKELY FALU (FALUKÖZÖSSÉGI HATÁROZATOK A FEUDALIZMUS UTOLSÓ ÉVSZÁZADÁBÓL). Edited by *István Imreh*. Bucharest: Kriterion Könyvkiadó, 1973. 340 pp. Lei 11.50, paper.

This book is welcome evidence of surviving Transylvanian historical scholarship in the Hungarian language. It is essentially a collection of resolutions contained in the minutes of Székely village community councils from the 1770s to 1847, presenting parts of nearly five hundred documents in Hungarian. These documents cover a wide variety of subjects closely related to everyday village life, such as administrative difficulties, problems concerning property, use of community forests, lands, and meadows, the defense of lands and pastures owned by the village, regulations regarding tillage of land and husbandry, and also some cases of violation of the peace and public order which belonged under the jurisdiction of the justice of the peace (*falubíró*), who was elected by the Székely village community from time immemorial.

There are, however, certain limitations. The topic is strictly "Székely," although some other groups are mentioned here and there—Rumanians, Saxons, Ukrainians, but *never* Hungarians. But even the Székely people and their land are not fully covered. An overwhelming number of the documents used by the editor were preserved by village communities located in the former Székely Military Frontier, where male members of the resident families were supposed to provide almost lifelong frontier duty on the easternmost Carpathian border of Transylvania and were under military administration. Consequently the picture is somewhat unbalanced, although Imreh tries hard to rectify the deficiency.

Imreh's ninety-page introductory study is a scholarly treatise on a highly complicated subject, projecting the image of a society long gone, which retained strong medieval ties and fought for its ancestral right to self-government not only against the intrusions of military authorities but against imperial, state, and county interference as well. The medieval and traditional form of life was crumbling in the

Székely villages of the early nineteenth century, so the everyday life of a Székely at that time, despite the deep-seated community traditions, was hardly an easy one. There are some slight attempts on Imreh's part to "Marxist-Leninize" his introductory study by looking for supporting data of an alleged continuous "class struggle" in the land of the Székelys, but he has little success. Otherwise the book is readable and nicely printed, the notes are precisely presented, and the Hungarian-Hungarian dictionary at the end, which links nineteenth-century Hungarian to the present language, deserves acknowledgment. The book will be interesting reading for students of Transylvanian history, and it also illustrates the value of this kind of research using village community documents.

ANDRÁS H. FOGÁNY
Seton Hall University

THE GREAT RUMANIAN PEASANT REVOLT OF 1907: ORIGINS OF A MODERN JACQUERIE. By *Philip Gabriel Eidelberg*. Studies of the Institute on East Central Europe, Columbia University. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1974. xii, 259 pp. 64 Dglds.

Systematic historical analyses of major peasant revolts are still comparatively rare in non-Communist literature, especially in the field of East Central European studies. For this reason, Professor Eidelberg's work is most welcome and breaks much new ground in the study of the long-range and immediate causes of the Rumanian peasant revolt of 1907. In a broader sense, his monograph is a major contribution to the field of East European social and agrarian history from the mid-nineteenth century to the First World War. The relevance of this study to comparative agrarian history is emphasized by an appendix entitled "Rumania and Russia (1861-1921)." The author also takes a brief look ahead to place in historical perspective the present Communist system of collectivization.

Until now it has generally been held that the revolt could be traced directly to the Land Reform of 1864, which created the machinery for a system of agricultural contracts that became increasingly onerous for the peasant. Eidelberg's original contribution, however, is to show that a more important cause, both of the worsening position of the Rumanian peasant and of the revolt itself, was the precipitate fall in world grain prices in 1875. The decline in agricultural profits encouraged the great landlords to recoup their losses by raising their peasants' rents. This long-term decline also stimulated, for the first time, a major trend toward sheltered industrialization and away from extensive agriculture. Such a policy was favored by the Liberal Party, representing many small landlords who could not adapt to the post-1875 agricultural situation.

Eidelberg meshes the immediate causes of the revolt into these long-range trends in a detailed analysis of the issue of agricultural reform (1903-7). This discussion forms the heart of his book. Existing accounts agree that the peasants were encouraged to revolt by outside influences, variously attributed to the "village bourgeoisie," the "urban bourgeoisie," or the "political radicals." The exact nature of this influence, however, had never been described in detail, much less satisfactorily explained. Eidelberg explains and documents this influence.

According to his argument, the Liberal Party, in order to create an internal market for its sheltered industrialization program, began to press for the creation of village land-renting cooperatives, whose purpose was to transfer control of the