

photographs also enhance this publication. A brief bibliography follows each chapter. One hopes that this volume will be followed by a more sophisticated work on the subject.

KAREL J. KANSKY  
*University of Pittsburgh*

ZAČIATKY ČESKEJ A SLOVENSKEJ EMIGRÁCIE DO USA: ČESKÁ A SLOVENSKÁ ROBOTNÍCKA EMIGRÁCIA V USA V OBDOBÍ I. INTERNACIONÁLY: ZBORNÍK STATÍ. Edited by *Josef Polišenský*. Bratislava: Vydavateľstvo Slovenskej akadémie vied, 1970. 335 + 14 pp. illus. Kčs. 30.

The significance of this work to the reviewer—a student of the American past—and to historians in general is not so much the quality of its scholarship as the fact that it appeared at all. For, as one of the contributors observes, few scholars on either side of the Atlantic have studied Czech and Slovak emigration to America. To meet this need the Slovak historian Miloš Gosiorovský conceived of this work at the 1960 international historical meeting in Stockholm, and the Czech scholar Josef Polišenský brought it to fruition. The result is a conscientious attempt to deal with a difficult topic—the meeting of two national cultures which in recent years have had few and strained formal relations.

The book consists of three sections: a foreword and seven contributed essays, a score of annotated immigrant letters, and a bibliography with a brief introduction. As in many edited books on unfamiliar subjects, the constituent parts of this one do not hang together well. The title concerning immigrant pioneers in general and the subtitle referring to early group radicalism are never integrated adequately, and no clear picture of the first decades of Czech and Slovak America emerges. Instead, the essays are doctrinaire Marxian and antibourgeois, and unduly neglect the vital religious and conservative nature of these masses.

The Western scholar can largely excuse such deficiencies when he recognizes the unstable political climate in contemporary Czechoslovakia, the rare (if any) contact with American historiography, and the simple novelty of the subject in East European academies. Thus the two noteworthy contributions are all the more outstanding. Geographer Jan Hanzlík's "Začiatky vyst'ahovalectva zo Slovenska do USA a jeho priebeh až do roku 1918, jeho príčiny a následky" attempts to view Slovak emigration totally—listing the exodus county-by-county. And the most refreshing essay by Ladislav Tajták, "K začiatkom Amerikánsko-Slovenských Novín," describes the unusual nationalizing efforts of the first Slovak American newspapermen through linguistic manipulation. Also, the concluding immigrant letters and the seventeen-page bibliography are of considerable value to American researchers interested in the pioneer era. The writers of the letters show an unusual sophistication for first arrivals.

With the growing recognition of cross-cultural and comparative history, these Czech and Slovak academicians have provided another tentative impetus to East European-American studies. They hope that Slavicists and Americanists here will respond.

VICTOR GREENE  
*University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee*