
NEWS OF THE PROFESSION

VÁCLAV HOLEŠOVSKÝ, 1924–1981

Václav Holešovský, professor of economics at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, died of cancer on April 19, 1981. He was born in Prague, where he earned his teacher's certificate in Russian and Czech at Charles University. During this time, he was active in the student social-democratic organization, working against the merger with the communists. After leaving Czechoslovakia in 1948, he received the diploma of the School of Political Science of the University of Paris and completed courses at the Sorbonne proper, where he concentrated on Hegel and on labor economics. Later he received his M. A. and Ph. D. degrees in economics from Columbia University.

Holešovský's main teaching interests were the economies of the Soviet Union and the Soviet area and the comparison of economic systems. He published a text on comparative economic systems in 1977. Holešovský pursued a long-term concern with a modern, nonideological approach to Marxism and Marxist economics. At the time of his death, he was planning a popular book and a monograph on this subject.

In addition to the textbook, Holešovský published articles and book reviews in a wide range of journals, such as the *American Economic Review*, the *Slavic Review*, *Dissent*, *Problems of Communism*, *New America*, and *Proměny*, as well as chapters in collections of essays. He contributed an entry to an international encyclopedia, published by Herder in Freiburg, Basel, and Vienna in 1970, an English version of which has appeared under the title, *Marxism, Communism and Western Society: a Comparative Encyclopedia*, published by Herder and Herder in New York during 1972 and 1973.

Václav Holešovský was a man of broad knowledge, clear intelligence, and deep concern with the major issues of our time. He had the courage to take positions that were both rational and humanitarian.

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ROBERT A. KANN, 1906–1981

The historical profession lost an illustrious member when Robert A. Kann died in Vienna on August 30, 1981. He was seventy-five and at the peak of his intellectual powers. A few days earlier the Austrian government had appointed him Honorary Lifetime Professor of Modern History at the University of Vienna.

Robert Kann was born in Vienna on February 11, 1906, of a middle-class family. Very early he developed a love for history, which he pursued while earning his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree in 1930 at the University of Vienna. In the thirties he worked as a judge's assistant and in private law practice. Because of the domination of fascism and nazism in Austria, he and his wife left the country in August 1938, going first to England and then early in 1939 to the United States. They arrived with few material possessions but with a dogged resolve to work, study, and advance in their new homeland. Kann received a degree in library science in 1940 from Columbia University and worked as a research associate at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton. Columbia awarded him the Ph. D. in history in 1946. In the seminar on nationalism conducted by Carlton J. H. Hayes, Kann fashioned a dissertation that was to comprise volume two of his initial and most renowned work, *The Multinational Empire: Nationalism and National Reform in the Habsburg Monarchy, 1848–1918*, 2 vols. (1950; 1964; 1970; updated