

had a different meaning in Prague, in Belgrade, and in Bucharest. Only dependence on the Entente and its creature, the League of Nations, was feasible.

The most original contributions to this volume, by F. Gregory Campbell and Peter Krüger, show the extent to which Germany, even Weimar Germany, was planning to use the Sudeten Germans as a means of exercising influence in Czechoslovakia. This does not mean, however, that Hitler's policy was merely a continuation of traditional German policy, a well-known thesis put forward by A. J. P. Taylor as long ago as 1961; Krüger and S. Dolezel underline unmistakably the revolutionary nature of Hitler's policy. Indeed, Dolezel's article, based on careful archival research, provides little-known facts about divergent German views on the future of truncated Czechoslovakia between the time of the Munich agreement and the German invasion on March 15, 1939.

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DECRETA REGNI HUNGARICAE / GESETZE UND VERORDNUNGEN  
UNGARNS, 1301–1457. Compiled by *Franciscus Döry*. Edited and annotated by  
*Georgius Bónis* and *Vera Bácskai*. Publicationes Archivi Nationalis Hungarici/  
Publikationen des ungarischen Staatsarchivs, 2. Fontes/Quellenpublikationen 11.  
Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1976. 491 pp. \$28.00.

Ferenc Döry performed a significant service for medieval historians when, more than half a century ago, he started to collect Hungarian royal decrees. The groundwork was prepared for him by earlier Hungarian historians, especially by the father and son team of Kovachiches in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. This volume was born when the coeditors, Georgius Bónis and Vera Bácskai, joined Döry in the late 1950s. The book offers a modern edition of *decreta* issued between 1301 and 1457, and will be followed by other volumes. When completed, the work will provide researchers an invaluable guide for the study of politics and law in medieval Hungary.

In defining the meaning of royal decrees, the editors started with the well-known fact that law in medieval Hungary was a program, not a set of inflexible regulations. It was a foundation upon which jurists could build when examining particular court cases. Actually, Hungary had four different sets of laws at that time. "Lex" was the "good old law," which originated from the holy kings of early Hungarian history, and carried great weight because of the prestige of their authors. "Ius," on the other hand, connoted "divine law," generally expressed through the canon law of the church. In case of a conflict "ius" had priority over "lex," since the former was regarded as the will of God. Mores provided another set of laws which were respected for their common sense and endurance. Finally, royal *decreta* constituted a fourth set of laws which had to be observed because they were issued by the ruling power of the country.

The power of a *decretum* was great since it represented the will of the sovereign in council with his barons and prelates and with the approval—with increasing frequency in the late fourteenth and early fifteenth centuries—of the nobility assembled in a diet. But a *decretum* was generally valid only during the reign of the king who issued it. Its eventual survival depended upon its agreement with "lex," "ius," or customary law. Even during a king's lifetime the applicability of his *decreta* was circumscribed by "divine law." Hungarian judges must have had a hard time indeed in finding the "right" law in individual court cases! If a plaintiff demanded, the judge could decide a particular case by applying "lex" or customary law; but he ignored *decreta* or "ius" at the peril of either his body or his soul.

During the late fourteenth century, royal decrees gradually assumed the role of nationwide laws, overriding all others except "ius." A close study of the *decreta* published in this volume will also reveal the changing relationships between royal authority and baronial power. By the end of the period covered in this volume, baronial ascendancy seemed assured. The following volumes will undoubtedly reflect the recovery of royal power during the reign of King Matthias Corvinus Hunyadi and its later demise under his successors.

Few documentary collections will be as important for researchers of medieval Hungarian history as this volume. The introduction provides an excellent background for the project and the thinking of its editors. The published decrees are meticulously edited. Summaries are provided in German, enabling Western scholars to work with the *decreta* without first having to go through the Latin texts. Döry, Bónis, and Bácskai have made a significant contribution to the scholarly community by publishing this volume and should be complimented for a job well done.

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A MAGYAR ÁLLÁSPONTOK HELYE A SZERBIÁVAL SZEMBENI HADICÉLOK RENDSZERÉBEN (1915–1918). By *Dániel Szabó*. *Értekezések a történeti tudományok köréből*. Uj sorozat, 79. Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1976. 181 pp. 27 Ft., paper.

SZOCIÁLDEMOKRÁCIA NEMZETI ÉS NEMZETISÉGI KÉRDÉS MAGYARORSZÁGON (1900–1914). By *György I. Kalmár*. Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1976. 248 pp. 62 Ft.

Belligerent powers frequently display tangible evidence of their future intentions even before diplomats gather around the table of a peace conference. Not only do conquests during the course of a war bring about makeshift military occupations open to the dictates of expedience, but they also encourage long-range planning about the territories in question. The resulting plans tend to reveal the various crosscurrents underlying the formulation of war aims, which generally fluctuate in response to conflicting external and internal pressures. Wartime policy toward occupied territories therefore provides the historian with insights into the disparate elements of a country's wartime mentality and constitutes a dress rehearsal for the performance to take place in the wake of anticipated final victory.

Dániel Szabó has chosen occupied Serbia, Austria-Hungary's primary foe, to demonstrate various Hungarian parties' positions vis-à-vis the defeated country. He depicts the conflict not so much between the Magyar parties as between the Hungarian and Austrian points of view, and between these two and the German position. The most revealing part of Mr. Szabó's book is the very fact that all the Magyar parties in Hungary, even the somewhat reluctant Socialists, shared a belief in Magyar supremacy. They endorsed Magyar overlordship in the Balkans, some blatantly, others in a democratic guise, depending on their respective places in the political spectrum. The author described this fundamental unity in this excellent monograph, which is based on a thorough knowledge of the sources and is written in a lucid and interesting style. The only objection concerns the conclusion, which, instead of emphasizing and explaining this most revealing unity, simply summarizes what has been said before.

If cataloging events and facts is merely a minor flaw in the last part of Szabó's otherwise first-rate book, it is unfortunately the most conspicuous feature of György I. Kalmár's monograph on social democracy and the nationality question between 1900 and 1914. Although the book reflects exhaustive research and the author's commendable mastery of the material, the narrative is hardly more than a string of quota-