

for someone who places such stress on comparative methods, his knowledge of the rest of Eastern Europe is disturbingly slight. The "rate of economic development" of Poland in the interwar period was not "relatively high for the region" (p. ix). It actually lagged significantly behind that of Hungary and Rumania (see I. Sventnilson, *Growth and Stagnation in the European Economy*, Geneva, 1954, pp. 304-5), and this relative stagnation had much to do with the political malaise of the thirties. Moreover, the freedom which the Polish government conceded to opposition parties can hardly be claimed to have given "Polish politics a unique position in Eastern Europe" (p. 28). Similar freedom existed in Hungary, Yugoslavia, the Baltic States, and, at least until 1938, in Rumania. In spite of these defects, Mr. Wynot's study is a useful contribution to the history of Poland between the wars.

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REVERED BY ALL: THE LIFE AND WORKS OF RABBI ISRAEL MEIR KAGAN—HAFETS HAYYIM (1838-1933). By *Lester Samuel Eckman*. New York: Shengold Publishers, 1974. ix, 214 pp. \$10.00.

Dr. Eckman's biography of the Hafets Hayyim, one of the major figures of East European Jewish Orthodoxy in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, is seemingly an excellent idea. But for whom is the book intended? It is pure hagiography, and as such it will not interest the serious outsider who would like to gain an insight into the life and times of the celebrated rabbi. On the other hand, those familiar with the Orthodox Jewish tradition within which the Hafets Hayyim lived will hardly find anything of substance in this confused and shoddily written book. The author discusses the rabbi's views on a variety of issues but fails to analyze in any depth the historically vital dilemma of a great traditionalist living in a time of enormous upheaval in Jewish life. The rabbi's attitudes toward Zionism and toward the anti-Zionist party Agudas Yisroel, to cite just two examples, are not seriously analyzed. The historical background is based on the books of Dubnov and Baron, and Dr. Eckman is apparently unaware of the considerable amount of new work appearing on East European Jewish history. There are bewildering digressions into Israeli religious disputes and personal theology. It is possible to sympathize with the author's piety and reverence for the Hafets Hayyim, but this book succeeds neither as scholarship nor as popularization.

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KAPITOLY Z DĚJIN ČESKÉHO UČITELSTVA (1890-1938). By *O. Kodedová* and *Z. Uherek*. Prague: Státní pedagogické nakladatelství, 1972. 159 pp. Kčs. 21.

This slim volume describes the efforts of Czech elementary school teachers to obtain better salaries, social position, and freedom to participate in the political affairs in the prewar Austrian Empire. It also traces the later organizational efforts of the teachers, first in the newly established Czechoslovak Republic, and later during the periods of economic crisis and political uncertainty which culminated in the destruction of the republic in 1938.

The book is a depressing example of party-line history. It includes not only the obligatory Marxist-Stalinist prologue, but throughout the book events, personalities, and intellectual trends are forced willy-nilly into the rigid framework of class struggle. Teachers are never described as a social group, nor do the authors make any attempt to present basic facts about them, such as family, educational background, income level, relative social position, and professional aspiration. The proverbially poor, legally-hamstrung civil servant of the Austrian school system, suspect because of having taught Czech to Austrian subjects, does not come to life, nor does that generation of teachers in postwar Czechoslovakia who identified with Masaryk's humanism and worked for the establishment of liberal, progressive schools free of church control in the new republic. They remain a shadowy class within the Marxist scheme.

The reader does encounter, however, numerous quotes from political editorials of the left-wing newspapers of the Teachers' Associations, and the authors' tortuous efforts to find signs of class solidarity between the teachers and the proletariat. Points of contact with the Communist Party, no matter how insignificant, are described in minute detail. The teachers and their leaders are castigated for deviating from the ideologically prescribed path, but they are never allowed to speak freely other than within simple-minded Marxist historiographical constraints. The book makes one realize how thoroughly the Russian frost has obliterated all traces of the brief 1968 Prague Spring.

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THE CZECHS UNDER NAZI RULE: THE FAILURE OF NATIONAL RESISTANCE, 1939–1942. By *Vojtech Mastny*. New York and London: Columbia University Press, 1971. xiii, 274 pp. Maps. \$10.00.

In the past two decades the Czech Resistance and the National Socialist system of occupation in the Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia have been subjected to intensive study, mainly by Czech historians. Thus, it is now possible to write a comprehensive history of National Socialist policy in the Czech lands and to reconstruct the conduct of the Czechs under Nazi rule. This is precisely what Professor Mastny tried to do. During the years he was working on his book, two other studies of the same topic were also written: the solid volume by Detlef Brandes, *Die Tschechen unter deutschem Protektorat* (1969), and the admirable, still unpublished work by the imprisoned Czech historian Jan Tesař. Both cover with better balance a large part of the ground explored by Mastny.

In part 1, Mastny describes the fall of Czechoslovakia. The major topics which run throughout parts 2 and 3 are the consolidation of the occupation regime and the rise of Czech resistance. Part 4 closes the narrative with the description of the persecution of the Czechs following the assassination of Acting Reich Protector Reinhard Heydrich in the early summer of 1942. Two maps, glossaries of the geographical and institutional terms used in the text, a good bibliography, and an adequate index complete the book. The value of this well-written, concise, and clearly organized account lies in its tracing of the impact of the Nazi occupation policies on the conduct of the Czech population. Of particular interest are the sections devoted to the German methods of administration and to the tactics pursued by the Protectorate government. At the time that they were initiating