

THE HABSBURG EMPIRE IN EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, 1814–1918. By *Barbara Jelavich*. Chicago: Rand McNally, 1969. viii, 190 pp. \$1.95, paper.

To cover in a small volume of some 170 pages the international relations of the Habsburg Empire in the last century of its existence within the social and political setting of the era is surely a tall order. To have filled it largely successfully is to the great credit of the author. Mrs. Jelavich's treatment is lucid. Her conclusions are well reasoned, though at points—as, for instance, the inevitability of not only the empire's doom but of its basic policies—debatable.

On the whole, Habsburg Eastern policy is better handled than its Western. Discussion of the German question during the revolution of 1848–49 and again in 1866 appears somewhat less than clear. Above all, one might wish also that concepts such as "alliance," "state," and "political autonomous units" had been defined. To cite just one example: the Three Emperors' League of 1873 and the Three Emperors' Alliance of 1881 are covered by the same terminology, though neither was a genuine alliance. Furthermore, an appendix listing and briefly defining the major treaty commitments of the monarchy would have been highly desirable.

As to specifics, the trialistic concept never pertained to a Slavic state but exclusively to a Southern Slav state concept within the confines of the empire. The notion that this idea was particularly close to the heir apparent, Francis Ferdinand, has been laid to rest by archival research. More important, the view that an expected future solution of the Southern Slav problem within the empire by the archduke represented a motivation for his assassination is highly controversial and not based on hard evidence. Neither can the chief of staff General Conrad be referred to as a "close friend" of the archduke.

Yet matters of this and similar kind do not invalidate by any means the far more weighty, positive features of the book. Many students of the overall history of the Habsburg monarchy will benefit from the perusal of this well-organized and stimulating survey.

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DIE BISCHÖFE VON PRAG IN DER FRÜHEN STAUFERZEIT: IHRE STELLUNG ZWISCHEN REICHS- UND LANDESGEWALT VON DANIEL I. (1148–1167) BIS HEINRICH (1182–1197). By *Peter Hülsch*. Veröffentlichungen des Collegium Carolinum, vol. 22. Munich: Verlag Robert Lerche, 1969. 262 pp. DM 29.

Although this book is a valuable and honest piece of work, unprejudiced and based on a thorough study of the Czech as well as the German literature, it comes into the world bearing the curse of its forebears. The Collegium Carolinum is an organization of Sudeten-German scholars, seeking to recover by *Wissenschaft* what they lost by policy and war, and the general problem of the present work, the nature of the tie between medieval Bohemia and the Reich, has been the subject of endless scholarly controversy for reasons having little to do with scholarship. The Germans have wanted to justify one or another form of their control over all or part of Bohemia and Moravia; the Czechs have wanted to validate their autonomy, independence, or monopoly over the land. The most recent exchange was prompted by Wilhelm Wegener's *Böhmen/Mähren und das Reich im Hochmittelalter* (Cologne, 1959), arguing that the tie was not a merely vassalic relationship between the duke