

mans from the thirteenth century to 1945 is hardly mentioned—therefore, one of the significant factors in Czech and Czechoslovak history remains unexplained.

The year in which the emergence of two distinct nations in Bohemia—a Czech nation and a German nation—was revealed, 1848, is a convincing starting point. Here, as in the other two major sections leading up to the tragic developments of 1938, 1948, and 1968, Professor Wallace explains the evolution and the main political issues of the social classes, traces the important trends in the economy and in cultural affairs, and even manages to cover the major diplomatic currents relevant for Czechoslovakia. Because of a popular approach, footnotes do not verify the factual information, and one regrets the omission of a scholarly apparatus, even though quite a few errors were easily traced. Yet the pleasant, uncomplicated style makes the book easy reading; thus it should attract not only students of history, but anyone interested in a compact survey of modern historical development in Czechoslovakia.

Another shortcoming of the volume has to be mentioned: the reading list covers mostly books in English as well as a few titles in Czech and Slovak. German historiography, which recently has contributed so much to our understanding of the interwar period and the developments during World War II, is completely omitted. And one gains the impression that the author is not too familiar with this body of work which attempts to explain why the centuries-old symbiosis of Czechs and Germans came to such a dramatic end and why the German trauma was so influential on Beneš's judgment and policy making after 1938. On the other hand, Professor Wallace's objectivity and fairness to everyone concerned enables him to make sound judgments concerning most personalities involved. One could, of course, question some of his statements about Beneš's actions, at Munich or in 1948, or his statements on the motives and options of Dubček and the Czechoslovak reform politicians in 1968, but his open presentation of conflicting arguments and evaluations is a major asset and makes his book an informed and helpful guide for those who wish to learn.

The discussion of the driving forces behind the reform movement of the 1960s and the interpretation of the reform and the reaction in 1968–69 is very convincing. I have my doubts here—as in the chapter about Munich and the “treachery” of the Western allies of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic—about his judgment on the absence of military resistance, yet I know of no other description which is so to the point, so clear, and so sympathetic. One can only hope that his credo, formulated in his last sentence, will prove to be true: “1968 was not the end, and what is following is only an interlude.”

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CONFRONTATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE: WEIMAR GERMANY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA. By *F. Gregory Campbell*. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1975. xvi, 383 pp. \$15.00.

This original contribution to scholarship is the first comprehensive and analytical study of Czechoslovak-German relations from 1918 to 1933. It complements and in some respects supersedes other works which deal not only with the same subject matter but with the First Czechoslovak Republic and interwar European diplomacy as well. Czechoslovak domestic politics are surveyed largely on the basis of newspaper and published accounts and to the extent necessary to explain certain developments in foreign policy. The author stresses almost exclusively the diplomatic aspects of the Czechoslovak-Weimar German relationship, discussing economic aspects occasionally and cultural and scientific developments hardly at all. He neatly places that relationship in the context of European foreign relations and reveals how it was affected by every

important international crisis or conference from 1919 to 1933, with the possible exception of the cursorily noted Genoa economic conference of 1922. His assessment of the long-range as well as the short-term consequences of the Ruhr crisis and Locarno, the latter foreshadowing in many respects the Munich Pact of 1938, is particularly well done.

Campbell clearly indicates the place of the Czechoslovak-Weimar German relationship in the history of Czech-German relations from 1848 to 1945. In doing so, he convincingly makes three important and related points. First, contrary to what many historians have assumed, that relationship was characterized much more by confrontation than by cordiality or compromise. Second, this confrontation may best be defined as "the conflict between the German potential for resurgence in Central Europe and the Czech effort to establish the absolute independence and sovereignty of Czechoslovakia." Third, such conflict was "an integral part" of that process of nation building initiated by the Czechs during their national revival and continued through the struggle against nazism and beyond.

Campbell also helps clarify our understanding of Czechoslovakia's relationships with its other immediate neighbors—Austria, Poland, and Hungary—and with its Western patrons—France and Great Britain. In doing so, he perspicaciously examines three triangular relationships: Germany-Poland-Czechoslovakia, Germany-Austria-Czechoslovakia, and France-Britain-Czechoslovakia. Especially noteworthy is his discussion of how Czechoslovakia and Poland each sought to divert German efforts at expansion against the other.

Campbell bases his work primarily on diplomatic archival sources in Britain, France, Czechoslovakia, West Germany, and the United States, as well as on a critical reading of pertinent secondary literature. He is able to delineate the foreign policy of Weimar Germany more clearly and fully than that of Czechoslovakia, given his unrestricted use of German archival records and the Czechoslovak government's policy of severely limiting access to its diplomatic archives. His bibliographical essay on archival and printed sources is very well done.

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URBANIZATION UNDER SOCIALISM: THE CASE OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. By *Karel Joseph Kansky*. New York: Praeger Publishers, 1976. xviii, 313 pp. Tables. Maps. Figures. \$22.50.

*Urbanization Under Socialism: The Case of Czechoslovakia* proposes a general synthesis and a precise terminology for socialist urbanization. The emphasis is on the spatial aspects of city development, and the approach is therefore geographical and demographic. Indeed, Professor Kansky disclaims any intention of dealing with such problems as crime, public services, environmental pollution, or deconcentration. The great asset of the volume is a mass of housing and population data relating to East Central Europe that will be of use to scholars in a half-dozen disciplines. The fifty-seven tables, seventeen maps, and assorted diagrams and graphs provide detailed information on everything from the inhabitable floor space per dwelling unit to the proportion of in-commuters by city size.

Kansky's thesis is that a "distinctive form of urbanization occurs in the socialist countries of East Central Europe." This form is characterized by the total and unresponsive control of the Communist Party over all aspects of life, and it has resulted in "a continuously deteriorating state of housing and a maldistribution of investments to geographic areas." An American urban historian might note that the South Bronx or even the capital of the United States have not fared much better, but no one is likely