

DĚJINY JUGOSLÁVIE. By Václav Žáček et al. Prague: Nakladatelství Svoboda, 1970. 515 pp. Kčs. 40.

The purpose of this collective book is to provide an up-to-date survey of the historical evolution of the Croats, Macedonians, Montenegrins, Serbs, and Slovenes. It is the first serious attempt to produce in the Czech language a synthesis of the histories of the South Slav peoples. In the sixties Czechoslovak historians turned their attention to the investigation of the history of the Yugoslav peoples, but their undertaking was put aside after the tragedy of August 1968. That *Dějiny Jugoslávie*, submitted for publication in 1967, could have appeared in 1970 was probably because it avoided discussion of such a delicate question as the Stalin-Tito dispute and its aftereffects. The book covers the history of the peoples of Yugoslavia from the time of their settlement in the Balkans until the establishment of the Communist government in 1946. The histories of the major provinces as well as those of the smaller ones (Montenegro, Vojvodina, Bosnia-Hercegovina) and the Republic of Ragusa (Dubrovnik) are integrated into a unified history of the peoples of Yugoslavia.

The book is divided into nineteen chapters of uneven quality; one of the best is chapter 5, written by Václav Žáček, discussing the origin and development of capitalism and the beginnings of the national revival. Some periods of history are given more and others less space than they deserve. Curiously enough, the discussion of the period from 1941 to 1946, which one would expect to receive the greatest attention from the pens of "socialist" historians, is among the shortest and most superficial. The enemy occupation, the Quisling and collaborationist regimes, the various Partisan offensives, the Communist political activities during the war, the Mihailović-Tito conflict, and the question of the Great Powers and Yugoslavia in the Second World War have been either ignored or treated cursorily. Also, the authors do not delve into the relations between the Soviet and the Yugoslav Communist Parties during the Second World War and the immediate postwar period.

The authors realize that there are gaps in their work, for a synthesis covering such a long time span and the histories of several nations is of necessity selective. *Dějiny* is not a product of original research, and there is no evidence that the authors consulted the enormous amount of monographic literature and specialized studies in Yugoslav languages. They have relied almost exclusively on a few well-known Yugoslav works, published since the end of the Second World War. For this reason and because of the authors' own ideological preconceptions the *Dějiny* occasionally betrays a lack of objectivity. This is apparent especially in chapters on the interwar period and on war and the revolution (chaps. 8 and 9).

*Dějiny* is written in simple, popular language and is obviously intended for a broad reading public. Technically the book is finished. It is embellished with sixteen specially drawn and useful maps, an eleven-page index of personal names mentioned in the text, a one-page bibliography of Yugoslav books on the history of the peoples of Yugoslavia, and many photographs of important figures, events, and historical and artistic monuments. Although the book does not add to what is already known about the history of the Yugoslav peoples, it is a useful compendium and a reasonably balanced account of the complicated history of the Yugoslav peoples.

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