

The yearbook also contains some valuable treatments of scientific and cultural problems, among them one of Professor Ernst Schwarz's always brilliant contributions, this one devoted to the movements of the Bavarians (through Bohemia) in the sixth century. Of special interest perhaps are two articles (originally lectures presented in Munich) by Otto von Habsburg, who reasonably enough is devoting much thought to historical and political problems rather than claiming thrones that have ceased to exist. The former archduke and crown prince has, not for the first time, shown his thorough knowledge of the European history during the last hundred years, beginning, in this case, with the War of 1866. But he also goes rather far in using the doubtful mechanism of historical "ifs," and with it the claims of nearly definite developments—in this case that the tragic developments of Central Europe were the direct consequence of Königgrätz. Many critical judgments can be expressed about Bismarck, but it is hardly possible to think, in relation to this phase, of a German development without a measure of nationalism; and a Central European empire which would have combined in one huge structure the elements and traditions of the Habsburg Empire with the very different tendencies of national German unification is hardly imaginable. It is also doubtful when Bismarck in this connection is made responsible for the destruction of the balance of power—which supposedly had existed in Europe just down to 1866. This, at least, is an exaggeration. If the balance of power, to whatever extent it had existed, was weakened by Bismarck, it was not done in 1866. Even so, it is worth while to read the ideas of a thoughtful man whose personal fate was to an unusual degree directed by the history of the relation between "little" Germany and the Habsburg Empire.

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THE ASSASSINATION OF HEYDRICH. By *Jan G. Wiener*. New York: Grossman Publishers, 1969. vi, 177 pp. \$6.95.

This monograph by Jan Wiener deals with one of the most dramatic events in modern Czechoslovak history—the assassination of SS Obergruppenführer Reinhard Heydrich, Acting Reich Protector of Bohemia and Moravia, and head of the German security police, by Czech parachutists in May 1942. The author approaches the complex subject from a subjective viewpoint. His aim is not to analyze the event but simply to tell a patently moving story.

The most interesting aspect of the assassination is the reason for the decision of the exile Czechoslovak authorities in London to initiate an attempt on Heydrich's life. German historiography, in the main, assumes that its own prejudiced view of the success of the Heydrich plan to pacify the Czechs in 1941–42 is generally accepted as the reason for the assassination. However, this oversimplified explanation of the London decision shows little understanding of the reign of terror in the Protectorate under Heydrich. It is a matter of regret that the author has not attempted a really close and serious study of this, and other, relevant issues of one of the most discussed episodes of World War II.

The author depends primarily on such standard accounts as those by Čestmír Amort, *Heydrichiáda* (Prague, 1964), Miroslav Ivanov, *Nejen černé uniformy* (Prague, 1964), and Dušan Hamšík and Jiří Pražák, *Bomba pro Heydricha* (Prague, 1963). In his first four chapters he offers some background on the German occupation and the Czech Resistance to explain the events that led up to the assassi-

nation. This account is generally oversimplified, superficial, and misleading, even in its broad outlines, careless of chronology, and filled with gross factual errors. Only the most glancing attention is paid to the political, social, and ideological conditions affecting events. These chapters are by far the least authentic section of the book. The relatively short narrative of the event itself is closely observed and captures some of the tense atmosphere of the period.

The author does make a few interesting points, but he tends to spoil their effect with propaganda, sweeping generalizations, and unrelated sidelines. The volume reveals nothing new. It merely corroborates the known, and facts are presented at second hand. Moreover, there is no unity to the text, since the author has chosen to interlard the main theme with an account of his own life in the years from 1938 to 1945.

The book suffers from significant omissions that prevent its meeting the standards of a historical work: it has almost no references to sources, no bibliography, and no index, although the text is well illustrated. In short, the effect is, appropriately, journalistic and of some interest to the general reader. However, the student seeking a careful factual history will not find it in these pages.

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THE MASARYK CASE. By *Claire Sterling*. New York, Evanston, and London: Harper & Row, 1970. xvii, 366 pp. \$7.95.

The argument of this book is that Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk, whose body was found in a courtyard of Czernin Palace in the early morning of March 10, 1948, was probably murdered by agents of the Soviet security police in order to prevent him from escaping to the West.

From the scholar's point of view the presentation of this thesis is somewhat involved and digressive. Mrs. Sterling is a journalist composing a "whodunit," albeit with far-reaching political overtones, for a popular audience. She undertakes long excursions into Czech history, dealing with Hussitism, Schweikism, and Masarykism, as well as with the events leading up to the coup d'état of February 1948. While these asides no doubt have value to the audience Mrs. Sterling has in mind, readers of this *Review* will tend to find them superficial and sentimental, inclined to sensationalism, and sometimes misleading. For example, Jan Kozak, author of *How Parliament Can Play a Revolutionary Part in the Transition to Socialism* (London, 1961), is presented as an early Palmiro Togliatti, advocating the use of parliamentary organs, together with the threat of overwhelming force, to establish the dictatorship of the proletariat. But Togliatti's aim was to convince the Italian public that the PCI had abandoned violence, or the threat thereof, and had accepted the principle of loyal opposition, and therefore should be permitted participation in a coalition government.

For all this, the patient reader will still emerge from Mrs. Sterling's 366 pages with three indisputable facts in mind, each pointing inexorably to assassination rather than suicide: the disarray in Masaryk's Czernin Palace apartment, which bespoke violent struggle; the minister's loss of sphincter control, which, in the opinion of non-Czech experts in forensic medicine, is never associated with suicide and usually occurs only in the final stages of suffocation; and the large number of persons with direct knowledge of the case (more than a dozen) who