

mind. Sugar has both. Consequently, his book is far more than simply a "welcome addition to the field." It is a unique interpretation of the entire Ottoman experience in the Balkans.

GALE STOKES
Rice University

LJUDEVIT GAJ: NJEGOV ŽIVOT, NJEGOVO DOBA. By *Josip Horvat*. Zagreb: Sveučilišna naklada "Liber," 1975. viii, 399 pp.

This biography was completed in 1959, only a few years before Josip Horvat's death. It has long deserved to be published. Josip Horvat, a journalist by profession, was the author of many works on Croatian cultural and political history, but he was not a historian's historian. He would be the first to admit that what interested him most was to "tell the story." He was unsystematic about source citations (most of the quotes in the Gaj biography are not footnoted), sometimes careless about details, and did not always exhaust the available sources, particularly recent secondary studies. Horvat wrote popular rather than scholarly history, but his works were based upon a close reading of primary sources and a grasp of the larger issues.

Ljudevit Gaj (1809–72) is a controversial historical figure. Leader of the Illyrian Movement, owner of the nationalist newspaper and press, founder of the Illyrian Party, and one of the most important men in Croatia in the first months of 1848, Gaj's image is blurred by his ambiguous "secret politics," his constant need for money, and the financial scandal which cast him from power in June 1848. Horvat draws a vivid portrait of Ljudevit Gaj, the man, against the background of Croatian political and cultural life. The story he tells is a dramatic one. He attempts to explain why this man, who gave his energy and modest inheritance to the national awakening, and seemed to go from success to success while in his twenties, was later ignored and scorned. Horvat lays the blame on Austria's ambivalence toward Gaj and the Movement, the self-interest and arrogance of the nationalist nobles, the lack of real support among Zagreb citizens, family pressures, and Gaj's own lack of business sense.

This biography is the product of more than a decade of work with the Gaj papers. After World War II, Josip Horvat and Jakša Ravlić organized and catalogued the Gaj papers and prepared Gaj's collected works for publication. Only their carefully edited volume of the Gaj correspondence was published (1956). Josip Horvat was already in ill health when he finished the biography of Gaj, and, because it was without a publisher, he condensed his findings in a short popular study (1960) which aroused both interest and criticism. The Gaj manuscript sat on an editor's desk for many years. A critical edition of the manuscript, one with the necessary footnotes and comments, would have been a long undertaking. The editors finally decided to publish the manuscript just as it was. They added a fine essay by Jaroslav Šidak on "Ljudevit Gaj as a Historical Problem," which helps to put Horvat's biography in perspective.

I have retraced much of Josip Horvat's work as I did my own research on Gaj, and I found his book to be essentially sound. It is based primarily on the Gaj correspondence, on published and unpublished letters of Gaj's contemporaries, and on standard published works. It is weakest on Gaj's "secret politics," his Yugoslavism, and the development of his ideas. It is strongest on describing his effect on others, the limits within which he could operate, and his financial problems. This book does contain some inaccuracies and does ignore some of the more recent (post-World War II) scholarship on Gaj and the Movement, but nowhere can you find a more sharply drawn portrait of Gaj. This is a work which should be read critically, but which should be read by all people interested in modern Croatian history.

ELINOR MURRAY DESPALATOVIĆ
Connecticut College