

eighteen, to his ascent to the highest positions in the Ottoman Empire, including the function of grand vizir which he occupied under three sultans, from 1565 to his assassination in 1579.

Samardžić describes Sokolovich's activity as grand vizir, putting it within the framework of the European and Eastern policies of the empire. At the same time he tries to give us more than just a picture of the political situation of the Ottoman state, Mehmed's reactions to it, and his decisions which shaped its destiny. The thinking behind those decisions, the mentality of the times and of the people, both in Turkey and in the West, and the impact of this mentality on historical events—all of this is presented with considerable success.

Understandably the author is somewhat taken by his subject. Thus he tends sometimes to justify Sokolovich's hardly excusable behavior (his greed, bribetaking, brutality, and so forth). Nevertheless one must admit that his partiality for his hero does not obfuscate his overall judgment. Samardžić sees Mehmed as a man who was "all-powerful and in his predominance rude and ruthless. But at the basis of such behavior one can see with increasing frequency great statesmanlike abilities" (p. 277). Sokolovich, in Samardžić's opinion, was a man who "held the world in his palm" (p. 506) and who wanted to "introduce Turkey into the system of European states" (p. 487).

Contrary to many previous historians who saw Sokolovich as the last of the great Ottoman statesmen—a man closing an epoch—Samardžić depicts him as a man ahead of his time. This ultimately destroyed him, because the conservative and narrow-minded men around Murad III could not understand the grand vizir's vision of the Ottoman role in the world, nor his attitude toward many internal problems of the empire. Samardžić does not explicitly say so, but he does mention that "there are indications" that Sokolovich's assassin was connected with the group surrounding the sultan (p. 550).

It is a pity that, owing to the format of the series in which the book was published, the author was unable to footnote his text. Because of this, one wishes that the essay on the sources and bibliography, at the end of the volume, were more detailed, especially when dealing with the sources that Samardžić has used abundantly throughout his text. Nevertheless Samardžić's work, which is beautifully illustrated, is a major contribution to the history of the Balkans, the Ottoman Empire, and the Mediterranean world in the sixteenth century. It is also a reminder of the difficult fate of the Balkan peoples, torn between the Ottoman and Western worlds at a crucial time of change for both.

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KHAIDUTSTVOTO V BŪLGARSKITE ZEMI PREZ 15/18 VEK, vol. 1. By
Bistra Tsvetkova. Sofia: Nauka i izkustvo, 1971. 427 pp. 4.05 lv.

This is a translation into Bulgarian of Ottoman registers and of West European commentaries on the phenomenon of *khaidutstvo* in Bulgaria and neighboring lands, chiefly Macedonia and Serbia, from the fifteenth century to 1800. Some of the documents have previously been translated into Greek, Serbian, or Macedonian. The book contains a preface (which is also the English summary), an introductory essay, and useful terminological and geographical indexes.

By *khaidutstvo* Bistra Tsvetkova means brigandage as a form of social and

national protest against landlordism (which she calls feudalism), the inequities of a commercial economy, maladministration, and foreign (Ottoman) rule. Only some of the documents, however, refer to brigandage with a social purpose. The others are imprecise or deal with organized group thievery.

Having failed to use the contributions of Fernand Braudel, Eric J. Hobsbawm, or Anton Blok to our knowledge of brigandage, Tsvetkova has neglected to exploit her documents for the information they contain on the alternate or simultaneous membership of bandits in various internal security groups—thus on the *ambiguity* of the social bandit's role. Sharing his booty with village receivers (sometimes entire villages), he could aspire to secure his position in the prevailing power hierarchy.

Tsvetkova's documents permit systematic study only of the period 1630–99, for which 185 documents are included as against a mere 37 for the period before 1630, 31 for 1700–29, and 39 for 1730–99. The seventeenth-century data suggest peaks of banditry in 1630–50 and 1670–90.

Band membership varied from five to five hundred persons. The larger bands became more numerous when the Ottoman Empire was at war with Venice, Austria, Russia, or Persia. The objects of attack were landlords (possessors of surpluses), merchant and official caravans, other travelers, city markets, and fairs. Sometimes, however, a band would pillage an entire village. Tsvetkova identifies three main zones of *khaidutstvo*—Macedonia, northwestern Bulgaria and neighboring Serbia, and portions of Danubian Bulgaria, or the territories near the frontiers with Hungary (Austria), Venice, and tributary Wallachia. But there was also a concentration of banditry along the great commercial and military routes.

The author regrettably has made no attempt to examine the possible relation between social banditry in the "Bulgarian lands" and the general upsurge of brigandage and piracy in the Mediterranean and many other parts of the world in the two centuries after 1550. Had she done so, she might have discovered that the growth of brigandage was in part the result of the activation of land and sea routes and of an increase in commercial traffic.

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BŪLGARSKATA KOMUNISTICHESKA PARTIJA V CHUZHDATA
LITERATURA, 1885–1967: BIBLIOGRAFSKI UKAZATEL. Compiled by
Iota Dancheva and Mikhail Lazarov. Sofia: Partizdat, 1971. 479 pp.

This bibliography is a welcome addition to the basic *Istoriia na BKP, 1885–1944: Bibliografii; materialii publikovani sled 9 septemvri 1944 g.*, which the party's publishing office issued in 1965. Its 3,392 entries represent materials published outside Bulgaria from the beginning of the twentieth century to the present. Predictably, most of them are by Bulgarians and Russians and exclude politically odious authors such as Trotsky, who published (with Khristo Kabakchiev) *Ocherki politicheskoi Bolgarii* (Moscow and Petrograd, 1923). The bibliography is nonetheless a useful tool for students of the history of the Bulgarian Communist Party and Bulgarian politics.

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