

fought the Communist encroachment within their party. Tóth does not diminish the importance of Kovács, but he makes every effort to cast him in a negative light—which, of course, alerts the Western reader to the insurmountable odds Kovács had to face in his honest effort to provide a genuine political representation to the Hungarian peasants.

Even if Kovács and his followers had succeeded in making the NPP independent of any Communist influence, it would have been futile, because by 1947 the limited Hungarian democracy was rapidly coming to an end. The most misleading aspect of Tóth's book is the complete omission of the role of the Soviet Union in the events that shaped Hungary's political future—a future which was decided not by national elections or by parliamentary maneuverings in Hungary but by directives from Moscow.

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ÎNȚELEGEREA BALCANICĂ. By *Eliza Campus*. Academia de științe sociale și politice a Republicii Socialiste România. Institutul de istorie "N. Iorga." Biblioteca Istorică, vol. 36. Bucharest: Editura Academiei Republicii Socialiste România, 1972. xxv, 394 pp. Lei 27.

Professor Campus, author of many studies, including the recent *Mica Înțelegere* (*The Little Entente*), published in 1968, has produced the most thorough analysis of its Balkan complement—the multilateral arrangements entered into by Rumania, Yugoslavia, Turkey, and Greece in 1934. Previously treated in *The Balkan Conferences and the Balkan Entente, 1930–1935* (1936) by Robert J. Kerner and Harry N. Howard and in *Balkan Federation* (1942) by Leften S. Stavrianos, this topic has now secured a definitive yet controversial treatment by this prolific Marxist historian of twentieth-century international politics. Published at a time when Rumania is reasserting her political and economic independence from the socialist bloc states, this study endeavors to furnish historical justification for an earlier attempt—the 1934 pact—by the Balkan States to wrestle free from the machinations of the greater European powers. The author describes the efforts of Nicolae Titulescu, Rumania's esteemed foreign minister, to alert the League of Nations and the Balkan States to form a common front against the increasing menace of German and Italian fascism. She provides numerous references to the policies of the greater European powers. Most fascinating is the tragic story she tells of the slow rot which spread through the Entente as Europe descended into the abyss of prewar desperation. This solid study contains few references to the role of Soviet Russia, which was minimal in the Balkans during the 1930s. Such an approach by a Rumanian historian today presages an increased independence from the heavy hand of Soviet-dictated interpretations formerly imposed on accounts published in the bloc states. The "bourgeois" intellectuals should welcome the appearance of this first-rate study whose main *raison d'être* apparently is to relate an important historical episode and not to expound a specific historical philosophy.

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