

PRVA ODLOČITEV SLOVENCEV ZA JUGOSLAVIJO: POLITIKA NA DOMAČIH TLEH MED VOJNO, 1914–1918. By *Janko Pleterški*. Ljubljana: Slovenska Matica, 1971. 324 pp. 84 new dinars.

This book describes the process by which the political leadership of the Slovene nation gravitated during the course of World War I toward an acceptance of the idea that the Slovenes should seek the resolution of their national question within the framework of an independent Yugoslav state. Pleterški concentrates on events in Slovenia, then part of the Austrian half of the Habsburg Monarchy, for it is his thesis that the Slovene decision to opt for participation in a Yugoslav state was indigenous and was at most peripherally affected by such groups as the Yugoslav Committee in London and Slovene immigrant groups in the United States and elsewhere. The book begins with the Slovene reaction to the murder of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and the start of the war and concludes with the de facto collapse of Habsburg authority in Slovenia at the end of October 1918. This is an unfortunate ending point, for Pleterški thereby completely ignores the intense activity carried on by the Slovenes during November 1918 to bring about the creation of Yugoslavia, which eventually occurred on December 1, 1918.

Pleterški's study is nevertheless a superb contribution to twentieth-century Slovene and Yugoslav history and should be required reading for anyone who wishes a fuller understanding of what lay behind the Slovene pressure for a Yugoslav state from the summer of 1918 forward. The principal factor, it is clear from Pleterški's account, was the growing sense of concern the Slovenes felt at being cast adrift by a possible collapse of the Habsburg Monarchy and the danger that in the absence of a Yugoslavia to fill the vacuum Slovene territory would be partitioned between the German Austrians and the Italians. For the Slovenes, especially after the Habsburg collapse in late October 1918, a Yugoslav state became a vital necessity. This is why Pleterški's refusal to extend his study to December 1, 1918, is so serious an omission. In addition, Pleterški generally ignores one other crucial matter throughout his study. If there was one option which the Slovene leadership, irrespective of political conviction, did not earnestly consider in the summer and autumn of 1918, it was the question of an independent Slovenia. A full discussion of what was behind this explicit rejection of complete national sovereignty would have added greatly to the value of this study.

In summary, it is important to reiterate that though a reader may quibble about details or interpretations, this book is based on an exhaustive use of available archival and secondary source materials and is a professional work of scholarship.

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THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE: THE CLASSICAL AGE, 1300–1600. By *Halil İnalcık*. Translated by *Norman Itzkowitz* and *Colin Imber*. New York and Washington: Praeger, 1973. xii, 258 pp. \$15.00.

The best-informed modern survey of Ottoman history, this is a work to brighten the eyes of anyone interested in the subject, especially those who teach it. The book includes an initial narrative section, followed by topically organized sections on "The State," "Economic and Social Life," and "Religion and Culture." The text is supplemented by outstanding illustrations, charts and maps, glossary, chronology,