

The book is a depressing example of party-line history. It includes not only the obligatory Marxist-Stalinist prologue, but throughout the book events, personalities, and intellectual trends are forced willy-nilly into the rigid framework of class struggle. Teachers are never described as a social group, nor do the authors make any attempt to present basic facts about them, such as family, educational background, income level, relative social position, and professional aspiration. The proverbially poor, legally-hamstrung civil servant of the Austrian school system, suspect because of having taught Czech to Austrian subjects, does not come to life, nor does that generation of teachers in postwar Czechoslovakia who identified with Masaryk's humanism and worked for the establishment of liberal, progressive schools free of church control in the new republic. They remain a shadowy class within the Marxist scheme.

The reader does encounter, however, numerous quotes from political editorials of the left-wing newspapers of the Teachers' Associations, and the authors' tortuous efforts to find signs of class solidarity between the teachers and the proletariat. Points of contact with the Communist Party, no matter how insignificant, are described in minute detail. The teachers and their leaders are castigated for deviating from the ideologically prescribed path, but they are never allowed to speak freely other than within simple-minded Marxist historiographical constraints. The book makes one realize how thoroughly the Russian frost has obliterated all traces of the brief 1968 Prague Spring.

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THE CZECHS UNDER NAZI RULE: THE FAILURE OF NATIONAL RESISTANCE, 1939–1942. By *Vojtech Mastny*. New York and London: Columbia University Press, 1971. xiii, 274 pp. Maps. \$10.00.

In the past two decades the Czech Resistance and the National Socialist system of occupation in the Protectorate Bohemia and Moravia have been subjected to intensive study, mainly by Czech historians. Thus, it is now possible to write a comprehensive history of National Socialist policy in the Czech lands and to reconstruct the conduct of the Czechs under Nazi rule. This is precisely what Professor Mastny tried to do. During the years he was working on his book, two other studies of the same topic were also written: the solid volume by Detlef Brandes, *Die Tschechen unter deutschem Protektorat* (1969), and the admirable, still unpublished work by the imprisoned Czech historian Jan Tesař. Both cover with better balance a large part of the ground explored by Mastny.

In part 1, Mastny describes the fall of Czechoslovakia. The major topics which run throughout parts 2 and 3 are the consolidation of the occupation regime and the rise of Czech resistance. Part 4 closes the narrative with the description of the persecution of the Czechs following the assassination of Acting Reich Protector Reinhard Heydrich in the early summer of 1942. Two maps, glossaries of the geographical and institutional terms used in the text, a good bibliography, and an adequate index complete the book. The value of this well-written, concise, and clearly organized account lies in its tracing of the impact of the Nazi occupation policies on the conduct of the Czech population. Of particular interest are the sections devoted to the German methods of administration and to the tactics pursued by the Protectorate government. At the time that they were initiating

active cooperation with the Resistance at home and with Czechoslovak authorities in exile in London, the Government and Protectorate President Emil Hácha continued—until late summer 1941—a policy of self-restraint and reluctant collaboration with the Germans to prevent unleashing the fury of the Nazi terror upon the Czechs.

Mastny's central thesis is simply stated: the Czechs failed to challenge the Nazi authorities with an effective resistance. By 1942 the resistance movement was destroyed, never to play a significant role until the end of the war. This attempt to force the complex situation in the Protectorate into a rigid Procrustean format seriously weakens Mastny's study, detracts from its achievement and distorts the author's useful findings. His version ignores the content, nature, and functions of the Resistance as well as the experiences of the underground movements in other European industrial countries. Because of the brutality of Nazi reprisals, the underground movements were committed early in the war to a cautious policy—one that would not waste human life.

The history of the Czech resistance evolved in two distinct phases which had their parallels in West European states. Throughout the first phase, until mid-1942, the Czech underground shared the prudent outlook of the Resistance in West Europe and focused its attention on creating an efficient intelligence service, establishing its networks, engaging in specific actions on a small scale, protecting members from persecution, organizing escape routes, publishing clandestine newspapers, and forming a cadre of moral and political leadership. During the second and final period, the reorganized Resistance emerged from the remnants of the shattered groups and increasingly engaged in diversionary activities and guerrilla warfare to accompany the advance of the Allies, which culminated in a wave of widespread popular uprisings in May 1945. By their nature, resistance activities are not readily amenable to the traditional historical approach, and they are often fraught with intangibles. Consequently, the historian must penetrate a mass of different versions with impartiality, empathy, compassion, and insight.

Mastny's account is unfortunately marred by factual errors and distorted in places by polemical thrusts against the Czechs for what he feels was their obedient submission to the occupation. His portrait of Edvard Beneš is overly critical, and he fails to breathe life into such protagonists of the drama as Hácha, Eliáš, Frank, Neurath, and Heydrich. His generalizations and the sweeping indictment of the Czechs are often not supported by evidence. Thus, it is simply not true that Czech businessmen eagerly collaborated with the Germans (p. 80), and that the Czech "behavior never justified any substantial increase in armed personnel" by the Germans "to keep the local population subdued" (p. 100). In reality, the number of SS, German police and army units in the country amounted approximately to 50,000 until the late summer of 1944, and on April 9, 1945 the number of SS and police troops tied by the Resistance amounted to 89,690 (not counting army and auxiliary units). Equally questionable is Mastny's assertion that after 1942 "at no time did the Czechs challenge the Nazis with a significant resistance movement" (p. 223).

Despite an impressive list of source material, the author fails to consider much available evidence. He does not report having consulted any members of the Protectorate government or a single resister. There are no citations to any of the clandestine publications, to the records of the Volksgerichtshof or of the Extraordinary People's Court, or to the trial of the Protectorate government. Similarly, the Sicherheitsdienst (SD) reports giving evidence of the hostile mood of the Czechs

are mostly disregarded. Admittedly, none of these sources is entirely reliable, but together they form an indispensable documentation. These lacunae detract from the overall value of the book and leave this reader with a frustrated wish for deeper penetration into the subject matter. The result would surely have been a more balanced study.

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KOMÁROV: A CZECH FARMING VILLAGE. By *Zdeněk Salzmán* and *Vladimír Scheufler*. *Case Studies in Cultural Anthropology*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1974. x, 150 pp. Illus. Paper.

This painstakingly researched study is welcome as a unique English-language source treating Czech peasant life from a contemporary cultural anthropological viewpoint. It is part of the series *Case Studies in Cultural Anthropology* (brief format studies intended for undergraduate student use). The detailed presentation of the village's agrarian history, within the larger perspective of Bohemian culture, can, however, also be useful to those particularly concerned with Central Europe.

A case study of the way that contemporary socialist agricultural cooperatives function on the local village level is included, which is helpful in understanding national level surveys of collectivized agriculture. The transition from private agriculture to socialist cooperatives was not accomplished without some resentment and disruption. The Czech experience, however, was seemingly mild compared to that of the Soviets or even to some of the other East European countries. The relative material well-being of the contemporary villagers is also notable, even though there is a serious shortage of young people for agricultural work.

Significantly this study is a cooperative effort between a scholar of Czech origin (Salzmán) and a member of the Czechoslovak Institute of Ethnography (Scheufler). It strongly reflects European ethnographic concerns in its emphases on material culture, folk art, and rituals. There are separate sections on house types, arts and crafts, life cycle rituals, and folk music and dance. A useful addition, however, would have been some commentary on the differences between American anthropology and European ethnology. Background explanation is also needed to understand the authors' approach: "We did not think it practical or desirable to present Komárov . . . in [a] highly personal manner . . . we endeavored to explore the life of the community through its long and interesting history" (p. xiii).

From a social anthropological point of view the book lacks complete data on kinship, and also on non-kin groups. More disturbing, however, is the absence of a bibliography of English-language sources to help the reader unfamiliar with Czech to explore further the culture, society, and economy. Also lacking are references in the text to related English-language works on European peasant societies. Without a comparative perspective, it is difficult to appreciate the unique features of socialized agriculture as well as to be aware of common problems involved in the demise of traditional peasant agricultural societies. On the other hand, the relatively early industrialization of Czechoslovakia, viewed in an East European framework, is well reflected in the authors' description of the disappearance of "traditional" aspects of peasant culture.