

as a preliminary to a planned history of Slavistics in Czechoslovakia (now in progress in Brno, though its future is in doubt). This roster of illustrious names, with the incredibly long bibliographies attached to many of them, is certainly vivid evidence of the fundamental contribution Czechs and Slovaks have made to the development of Slavic studies. As a reference book, however, its value is primarily as a biographical dictionary. With only an index of proper names, it would be very difficult to use it for topical research. Nevertheless, it is a valuable tool for those who can get it.

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MINULOST NAŠEHO STATU V DOKUMENTECH. Prague: Nakladatelství Svoboda, 1971. 334 pp. Kčs. 41.

This is an excellent selection of documents and literary extracts to illustrate Czech history from the earliest times to the end of the nineteenth century. It was presumably intended for the intelligent layman in Czechoslovakia; the work has been done with scholarly thoroughness and will be useful to all students of the subject. There is a brief and valuable introduction by the distinguished Czechoslovak historian, Professor Josef Polišenský. Each item is introduced by a note on the context and contents of the document and is supplied with good footnotes; information is also given on the archival sources.

The first item, an extract from the Byzantine historian Procopius, dates from the sixth century; the last document is from 1897. The volume includes the full text of documents of considerable importance in not only Bohemian but also Central European history. There are key documents from the Hussite period fully reproduced and also the complete text of the Letter of Majesty (1609) and of the Confederation of the Bohemian and Austrian Estates of 1619. The nineteenth-century documents include general Austrian documents, such as the text of the Kremsier and the Stadion constitutions (1849), as well as others relating to Czech political life.

The whole book is attractively produced and furnished with fine colored illustrations. An English translation would be invaluable.

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THE SLOVAK DILEMMA. By *Eugen Steiner*. International Studies. Published for the Centre for International Studies, London School of Economics and Political Science. New York and London: Cambridge University Press, 1973. ix, 229 pp. \$13.95.

Among the avalanche of publications devoted to the Czechoslovak Spring, few works have dealt with Slovakia exclusively, and the need for a basic study has remained. Eugen Steiner is not a scholar but a journalist who turned to scholarship in emigration. He describes himself as a Jew, a Communist, and a Slovak. One feels—admittedly with some personal prejudice—that this is a rather overwhelming combination for one person. Nevertheless, this volume is one of the most levelheaded investigations of Slovakia's past and present in any major European language. The *Slovak Dilemma* recalls the perceptive works of the now