

medieval culture and into the image of the past that Bulgarian elites are striving to communicate to their own people and to the world.

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ALBANIEN ZWISCHEN OST UND WEST. By *Otto Rudolf Liess*. Appendix by *Robert Schwanke*. Hannover: Herausgegeben von der niedersächsischen Landeszentrale für politische Bildung, 1968. 87 pp. Paper.

Mr. Liess's brief book, an attempt to sketch the history of Albania in some sixty pages, offers nothing new to the student of Albanian affairs. A pamphlet apparently intended for use in secondary schools and adult education courses, it is based on the secondary studies that were available in the field when it was written; its statistical and documentary supplement, edited by the noted Austrian Albanologist Dr. Robert Schwanke, is a useful compendium of vital statistics about the country, more up to date than those in Stavro Skendi's handbook, *Albania* (1956). Liess's book, published in 1968, was written without the benefit of the two recent important contributions to Albanian history and politics: Professor Skendi's major historical work, *The Albanian National Awakening, 1878-1912* (1967), and Nicholas Pano's *The People's Republic of Albania* (1968). Pano's study offers the most definitive brief history to date of the Albanian Communist Party, based on documents recently published in Tirana. Thus Liess's book is already out of date and cannot be recommended for reading or use.

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SÜDOSTEUROPA: BEFUND UND DEUTUNG. By *Otto R. Liess*. Vienna, Munich, and Basel: Wollzeilen Verlag, 1968. 399 pp. DM 29.

EAGLES IN COBWEBS: NATIONALISM AND COMMUNISM IN THE BALKANS. By *Paul Lendvai*. Garden City: Doubleday and Co., 1969. xii, 396 pp. \$6.95.

Written in symposium form and skillfully edited by the senior author and contributor, Otto R. Liess, *Südosteuropa* contributes the Austrian historical perspective to our current studies of East and Southeast Europe. The book is scholarly and serious; it offers an interesting "neighbor's view" of Southeastern Europe, defined here as also including Greece and Turkey. Its weakness lies in the attempt to compress discussions of too many countries into too few pages, with the result that little more is offered in the country-by-country chapters than superficial and kaleidoscopic impressions.

The introductory sections are primarily broad historic reviews of such topics as "Coexistence and Proximity in the Balkans," "Party and State in Southeast Europe" (with a valuable discussion of the many endemic forms of authoritarian-to-totalitarian forms of government, reminiscent of Gordon Skilling's analysis of "Totalitarianism in Transition" in his *The Governments of Communist East Europe*), "Planned Economy, Economic Change and Reform," and "Social Policies and Cultural Developments in the Danubian-Balkan Area." These are well-balanced

analyses differing in several interesting details both from the approaches characteristic of American scholarship and from the views of most English and West German observers of the European Communist scene.

The overall treatment of Communist regimes is the principal defect of this volume. Its generalizations on ideology cannot apply at all to Greece and Turkey (which therefore should have been excluded altogether), and in the case of Yugoslavia and Albania different methods of study and examination are required. The chapter on Czechoslovakia is wholly invalidated by the events of August 1968 and their aftermath, and the treatment of Hungary is far weaker than the more substantial coverage of Bulgaria and Rumania.

The Hungarian-born author of *Eagles in Cobwebs*, now an Austrian citizen living in Vienna, offers a sophisticated analysis of the Balkans' oldest and most endemic political problem: the irrepressible force of nationalism. The central theme of the book is clearly stated: "The Balkans have been a traditional storm center. The twin assault of a Communist takeover and Soviet domination has not 'solved' the national problem. On the contrary, it has intensified national animosities" (p. xii).

The author concentrates on the Yugoslav, Albanian, and Rumanian case studies of dissidence and defiance, showing almost conclusively that the rise of nationalism has led to a dramatic decline of Soviet influence not only in this region but also (by ideological osmosis) in neighboring countries. Although Czechoslovakia was clearly beyond the scope of this investigation focused on the "southern tier," Lendvai's views on Dubček-era patterns of Czech and Slovak nationalism should be of interest to the profession in view of the August 1968 events and the current occupation of Czechoslovakia.

The chapters on Yugoslavia are probably the most useful and relevant among the "linkage-studies" of nationalism and communism. The discussion of the Yugoslav "party in search of a role" is among the best this reviewer has seen. In it Yugoslav legal theory and its practical political application are juxtaposed in an interesting fashion. The Rumanian and Bulgarian sections are not up to this standard and occasionally are open to reinterpretation, if not correction.

This is a valuable study, but the approach taken is essentially journalistic. Not to speak of the incredible title (quite misleading, by the way), there are too many East Central European-style anecdotes, stories, and asides. The absence of even a minimal degree of documentation is also disturbing if there is any expectation that the book will be used in college classes. If this is not the intent, and the volume is offered as a trade book, it can serve as a clever ideological-political Baedeker of four of the world's most nationalism-ridden countries.

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THE FUTURE OF COMMUNISM IN EUROPE. Compiled and edited by R. V. Burks. The Franklin Memorial Lectures, vol. 17. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1968. 283 pp. \$7.95.

DAS SELBSTBESTIMMUNGSRECHT DER VÖLKER IN OSTEUROPA UND CHINA. Edited by Boris Meissner. Cologne: Verlag Wissenschaft und Politik, 1968. 237 pp. DM 32.

Each of these volumes is the result of a symposium. The first consists of five essays that in 1966-67 were delivered as the Leo M. Franklin Memorial Lectures