

DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF EASTERN EUROPE. By *Alfred J. Bannan* and *Achilles Edelenyi*. New York: Twayne Publishers, 1970. 392 pp. \$7.50.

The purpose of this book is to provide a collection of source materials on Eastern Europe (excluding Russia) "from the first Slavic invasions before 1000 A.D. to the Czech Crisis of 1968," which could be used "for a comprehensive undergraduate course." The need for such a collection is obvious to anyone who teaches in this area.

There are eighty-eight sources, including selections from chronicles, law codes, constitutions, treaties, letters, descriptions of events or travel accounts by eye-witnesses, and analyses by scholars of events, episodes, or periods of history. Each document is preceded by a brief statement, a paragraph or two, by the authors giving their interpretation of the significance of the source and indicating where the original is located. Of the eighty-eight selections, twenty-three may be classified as containing information about, or dealing with, more than one country, or as being important for a larger segment of Eastern Europe. Of the remaining sources, fifteen are devoted to Hungary, nine to Croatia, Serbia, and Yugoslavia, nine to Bohemia, Slovakia, and Czechoslovakia, ten to Poland, nine to Rumania, six to the Ottomans, four to Bulgaria, three to Greece, and none for Albania.

For obvious reasons, it is easier to compile a source book for one country than it is for a multinational area such as Eastern Europe with its diverse languages and histories. Thus if a dozen scholars undertook the same task, restricting themselves to an equal number of documents, I doubt that half of the sources would be identical. A specialist on the Balkans would not have the same appreciation for events north of the Danube. Someone immersed in the study of one or two countries would inadvertently ignore documents from other lands. Thus, for example, in this collection one might question the inclusion of Serbia's declaration of war on Bulgaria in 1885 and the omission of either the Bulgarian Tyrnovo Constitution of 1879 or the Corfu Pact of 1917. Even any number of relevant documents dealing with the Albanian-Chinese accord which was directed against the Yugoslavs and the Soviets might be more appropriate for the undergraduate student. The slighting of Greece, which many regard as the most important country historically in south-eastern Europe, could be challenged. These comments are not intended to criticize the authors, but to show that other selections are also possible. The authors have, however, performed a valuable service to the field. In their preface they state that this is "the first work to present significant documents and descriptions from the area's history." Should others be interested in the same goal, this volume would be a good point of departure.

CHARLES JELAVICH
Indiana University

A HISTORY OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACIES: EASTERN EUROPE SINCE STALIN. By *François Fejtő*. Translated by *Daniel Weissbort*. New York, Washington, London: Praeger Publishers, 1971. v, 374 pp. \$13.50.

This book is a continuation of Fejtő's earlier *Histoire des démocraties populaires* (1952). Taken together, the two volumes span the history of Eastern Europe from 1945 through 1970, covering every aspect of the life of the Communist regimes—the social and cultural, as well as the political and economic. Unfortunately the first book has not found a translator, and the translation of the second can at best be described as adequate.