

DIE VORKÄMPFER DER NATIONALEN BEWEGUNG BEI DEN KLEINEN VÖLKERN EUROPAS: EINE VERGLEICHENDE ANALYSE ZUR GESELLSCHAFTLICHEN SCHICHTUNG DER PATRIOTISCHEN GRUPPEN. By *Miroslav Hroch*. Acta Universitatis Carolinae Philosophica et Historica Monographia 24. Prague: Universita Karlova, 1968. 171 pp. Kčs. 20, paper.

Although this monograph is short (seventy-six pages) on the development of the case-study peoples and long (eighty-eight pages) on Teutonic *Strukturanalyse* and Marxian *soziale Zusammensetzung*, it is nevertheless an important and difficult comparative study and a contribution to a neglected aspect of an otherwise well-known subject, and will be studied and appreciated by students of national rebirths.

An extension of the author's previous work on the social composition of Czech national institutions (1957), the book has as its main hypothesis that the origin of modern national rebirths cannot be explained simply as the result of patriotic agitation. The work is basically an analysis of the social stratification, territorial distribution, occupation of parents, and early environment of the national leaders of seven small peoples of differing historical development.

The author, eliminating Southern Europe and the Balkans, concentrates on Central, Eastern, and Western Europe. Central Europe is represented by the Czechs, who are seen as a type possessing an old culture and a national tongue, and having experienced previous independence. (The Slovaks are treated briefly as a study in contrast.) The Lithuanians, Estonians, Finns, and Norwegians were chosen to characterize Eastern Europe. The Lithuanians represent a type having an independent history and a tradition of political autonomy, but lacking cultural development in their national tongue. The Estonians were selected as having no independent cultural or political tradition of their own. The Finns are depicted as a type having no strong native cultural or linguistic tradition, but having experienced political autonomy. The Norwegians are presented as an example of a people whose national rebirth ran first along political lines and later along cultural ones. Finally (representing the West), the Flemish are studied as an example of the unsuccessful efforts of the patriots in a country that is highly developed politically and economically to prevent a multilingual state from arising.

The author's many rather complex conclusions are neither unanticipated nor conclusive, but really argue for further research. There are over 250 footnotes, maps, and tables, but no bibliography or index.

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MAGYAR HUMANISTÁK LEVELEI: XV-XVI. SZÁZAD. Edited by *Sándor V. Kovács*. Nemzeti Könyvtár. Művelődéstörténet. Budapest: Gondolat Kiadó, 1971. 712 pp. 53 Ft.

The writing of letters in an individual style was one of the novelties introduced by the Renaissance. It is tempting to compare the documents in this book with the letters from the eleventh through fourteenth centuries published in an earlier volume of the same National Library series: L. Makkai and L. Mezey, eds., *Árpád-kori és Anjou-kori levelek* (1960). The often unknown authors of the medieval writings—