

STUDII ȘI MATERIALE DE ISTORIE MODERNĂ, vol. 5. Edited by *N. Adăniloae* and *Dan Berindei*. Bucharest: Editura Academiei Republicii Socialiste România, 1975. 276 pp. Lei 24.

This is the fifth in a series of volumes emphasizing detailed archival work on Rumanian history between 1821 and 1918. The two most significant articles focus on agrarian history. The first, by Ilie Corfus, is a study of the evolution of attempts by Muntenian villages to win emancipation from feudal land obligations between 1831 and 1864. A comprehensive identification and description of these dependent villages (the majority of the urban settlements) and the laws affecting them is followed by a discussion of the villages' unsuccessful struggle to escape feudal obligations. The effects of the continued "dependency" of these towns are seen by Corfus as twofold: on the one hand, most of the significant forces which were leading to social and economic transformation in the "free" urban areas were short-circuited; on the other hand, the struggle itself contributed to the formation and growth of an incipient middle class. The article is a welcome complement to other, equally well researched studies by Professor Corfus.

The second article, Gh. Cristea's "The Agrarian Crisis of 1865-1866 and its Socioeconomic Consequences," is also based on detailed archival research (done in part for his doctoral thesis on agricultural contracts, 1866-82), and presents an excellent overview of the agrarian situation immediately following the reform of 1864. Topics discussed in the article include the deficiencies of the reform, problems facing the Rumanian peasantry, corrupt administration, and the unbelievable series of natural calamities within which the reform unfolded (successive floods followed by drought and various pestilences). One major consequence of the crisis was to drive the small landholder to the wall. Taking advantage of the law on agricultural contracts, many wealthy proprietors extracted labor and payment in kind at enormous rates (200-400 percent). Whether the abuses were widespread is not conclusively shown, although the author cites numerous cases of such extortions, as well as corresponding governmental refusals to intervene. What is shown, however, is the deplorable political and economic situation of the Rumanian peasantry, and the general lack of concern of the Rumanian elite. As the author indirectly demonstrates, this indifference was a result of exceedingly complex internal and external circumstances of the day, but a partial reckoning was to come in the peasant revolt of 1907.

The volume also contains two pieces on Rumanian diplomacy which are helpful, but not outstanding. Gh. Platon's contribution is a discussion of Rumanian efforts toward independence from 1870 to 1875, based on an analysis of dispatches from Belgium's Rumanian agent (reprinted in an appendix). He stresses both the complexity of the situation and the significance of Rumanian diplomatic maneuvers for subsequent events. Especially of note is the weight given to the initiatives of Prince Carol, whose role has been obscured in recent years. The second article is a recounting of British policy toward the double election of Prince Cuza in 1859 and the union of the principalities in 1861. The author, Beatrice Marinescu, gives a useful summary but does not add much to what is already known about this heavily-studied period.

One of the remaining contributions is the publication of the prison diary of Ioan Rațiu following the Memorandum Trial of 1894, with annotations by Georgeta Penelea. This diary and the accompanying notes shed light on the relationship between Transylvania and the Rumanian kingdom and on the policies of the Liberal

Party. Finally, there is a survey of the activities of the Rumanian Academy between 1879 and 1918 by Dan Berindei. Based chiefly on the *Annals* of the Academy, the sketch continues the author's work on the history of this important Rumanian cultural body and provides an informative introduction to the Academy's operation, membership, and evolution.

To summarize, this collection successfully elucidates several important and interesting topics in nineteenth-century Rumanian history, and presents new documentary materials and sources for the same period. All of the contributions are worth reading.

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BŪLGARI-UCHASTNITSI V BORBITE ZA OSVOBOZHDENIETO NA GŪRTSIIA, 1821–1828: SBORNIK DOKUMENTI. By *Nikolai Todorov* and *Veselin Traikov*. Sofia: Izdatelstvo na Bŷlgarskata Akademiia na Naukite, 1971. 1020 pp. 10.05 lv.

It is well known that philhellenes from Western Europe, America, and the Balkans participated in the struggle for Greek independence of 1821. The Western Europeans and the Americans came to Greece inspired by certain ideals; the supporters from the Balkan countries were governed by more realistic motives. The revolution was not only a Greek matter but also their own; it concerned them personally, as much as it concerned their particular country. We know, from older works, especially those of the memorable N. Traikov, that a certain number of Bulgarians participated in the revolution on the side of the Greeks. The present book determines the precise number of these Bulgarians, and describes their personal stories as well as the extent of their contribution. Seven hundred and four Bulgarians took part in the struggle—168 fought with the Philiki Etairia in Moldavia and Wallachia under Alexander Ypsilantis, and 536 fought in southern Greece, when the revolution was restricted to that area. (There were, undoubtedly, some other Bulgarian combatants, but they remain anonymous.)

The work of N. Todorov and V. Traikov is the result of many years of exhaustive research in the Greek archives in Athens and in various Russian archives. The method of presentation is exemplary. A general informative introduction (pp. 5–47) is followed by a presentation of the Greek documents in the original and in translation in Bulgarian (pp. 51–935). The Russian list of the Bulgarian soldiers in the Danubian Principalities (pp. 936–48), a summary of the introduction in French, and indexes are also included.

From the published archival material it is quite obvious that the revolution inspired not only those who were Greek by origin, but also the rest of the Balkan peoples. This was to be expected. The Balkan peoples were living in the Greek intellectual atmosphere and the nationalist differences between them had not yet developed. Up to that time, the fact of being a Bulgarian or a Serb merely indicated an origin but not a national origin. The distinction between subjugated Balkan peoples on the one hand and Ottomans or other nationals on the other had as a sole criterion the fact that the former were Christian Orthodox, under the jurisdiction of the supranational Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

Some years after the revolution, on September 23, 1845, a Regulation was published in Athens covering the establishment of a settlement for Bulgarians and