

ROMANIA: A PROFILE. By *Ian M. Matley*. New York, Washington, London: Praeger Publishers, 1970. xii, 292 pp. \$8.50.

This is a handy and generally reliable book of data and insights on Rumania's past and present. It is not a piece of original scholarship, but rather a penetrating description and evaluation of Rumanian geography (physical, human, and economic), culture (language, literature, education, architecture, religion, folk and modern art, and music), ethnic groups, economy, and history.

Matley rightly asserts that Rumania is one of the "least well known countries in Europe." Except for monographs on contemporary Rumanian politics and foreign relations by Stephen Fischer-Galati and Ghita Ionescu, as well as on the economy by J. M. Montias, there is nothing in English of recent vintage by a single author that attempts to survey the various aspects of Rumanian life.

Scholars engaged in Rumanian studies may object to the superficial manner in which several complex matters are treated, and they may wish to challenge one or another of the author's facts and conclusions. But the general reader, including undergraduate students, to whom this book appears to be addressed should feel indebted to Professor Matley for a lucid synopsis of Rumanian affairs.

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A SHORT HISTORY OF SOCIALISM. By *George Lichtheim*. New York and Washington: Praeger Publishers, 1970. xi, 362 pp. \$8.95, cloth. \$3.95, paper.

It is almost ten years since Lichtheim published his well-known "historical and critical study" of Marxism. His most recent book covers a field that is more encompassing: the history of socialism from early socialists such as Owen, Fourier, and Saint-Simon to contemporary Marxism-Leninism, on the one hand, and the liberal socialism of Western democratic parties, on the other. As he himself says, his purpose is "to set up a number of signposts for the benefit of readers who may wish at a later stage to inquire into the details of a particular period or set of problems." Four chapters are devoted to the origins of socialist ideas and the emergence of what has come to be called the "social problem," including the beginnings of the workers' movement; two chapters discuss Marx's social and economic theory; three chapters are devoted to the development of Russian and Western socialism and to the development of communism; and a concluding chapter sketches some "Contemporary Problems of Socialism."

A survey such as this hardly can offer new information. However, it may offer a new perspective. Lichtheim's guiding thought is that "socialism" designates a "historically conditioned response to a particular challenge," namely, to the social problems connected with the industrial revolution in nineteenth and early twentieth-century Western Europe and North America. As a consequence, he opposes not only notions such as "African socialism" or "Arab socialism," which to him are but designations of "medievalism" and "nationalist conservatism," but also the idea that Marxism-Leninism is a genuine form of socialism. As a further consequence of his approach, Lichtheim tends to minimize the importance of strictly theoretical issues which occupy the minds of both contemporary Marxists and contemporary critics of Marxism. Thus, toward the end of his book he devotes several pages to the topic of "historical inevitability," only to classify quarrels such as the one between Popper and the "historicists" as mock battles not involving any real