

FINLAND: CREATION AND CONSTRUCTION. Edited by *Hillar Kallas* and *Sylvie Nickels*. London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd. New York: Frederick A. Praeger. Helsinki: Werner Söderström Osakeyhtiö, 1969. 366 pp. \$7.50.

FOUR FINNS: POLITICAL PROFILES. By *Marvin Rintala*. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1969. 120 pp. \$5.95.

The first of these two books cannot be described as a work of scholarship, and the second only doubtfully so. *Finland: Creation and Construction* is a collection of thirty-three articles, written and edited by thirteen Finnish and thirteen British writers and editors, and designed to be nothing more than a casual, brief introduction to the country for the English-speaking person planning to travel or do business there. On the whole, the articles are well written, though inevitably devoid of any statements likely to provoke controversy either in Finland or in the English-speaking world. The illustrations, charts, and graphs are excellent.

Professor Marvin Rintala's *Four Finns* falls into an entirely different category. Essentially it is a long essay, written in the author's familiar polemical style, and designed to answer the question: What qualities were most admirable and what qualities were most reprehensible in the leadership of the Republic of Finland during its first forty years of existence, 1917–57? Rintala seeks to answer this question through musings on the careers of Gustaf Mannerheim, Väinö Tanner, K. J. Ståhlberg, and J. K. Paasikivi.

The author's conclusion (one is tempted to say, his inevitable conclusion) is that (a) achievement in foreign policy was a better index to good leadership in Finland during 1917–57 than was achievement in domestic policy, and that (b) the only achievement in foreign policy that really mattered was success in reaching an accommodation with Soviet Russia, based, of course, on an initial desire to do so. Given this conclusion, which one suspects was also the initial assumption prompting the writing of the book, it is not surprising that Rintala ranks his four historical personages as follows: Paasikivi, Mannerheim, Ståhlberg, Tanner.

In doing so, the author concedes with some regret that he is ranking two conservatives, Paasikivi and Mannerheim, ahead of a liberal, Ståhlberg (victim of the ultra-Rightist Lapua Movement in 1930), and a socialist, Tanner. Moreover, he bitterly condemns Mannerheim for his role in the Finnish Civil War of 1918, claiming that he was really only a Russian White eager to use Finland to effect a tsarist restoration in Russia. Mannerheim is, however, given high marks for his role during World War II and its immediate aftermath, though Paasikivi is awarded the principal credit for steering Finnish policy into safe channels between 1944 and 1956. Tanner and, to a far lesser degree, Ståhlberg are held to have forfeited whatever credit they deserved for earlier domestic achievements because of their attitudes toward Soviet Russia during World War II and thereafter.

To swallow all this, one must be prepared to believe that for the entire forty years after November 7, 1917, there was a clear and consistent Soviet Russian policy toward Finland, and that it was based on a desire for peace and friendship and mutual noninterference in each other's internal affairs. Since Rintala chooses to all but ignore the Soviet Russian side of Finno-Soviet relations, he might as well make this assumption as any other, but it is not borne out by the Soviet Russian sources.

To say this is not to argue that the "Paasikivi line" was not the right one for Finland between 1944 and 1956. Clearly, it was the only course that made any sense at that time. One wonders, though, whether it is not better to be satisfied with justifying it through reference to the international facts of life of that period than

to seek additional justification through the distortion not only of the history of Finland, but of that of Soviet Russia, and of Europe generally, as well.

C. JAY SMITH
Florida State University

EASTERN EUROPE: HISTORICAL ESSAYS. Presented to Professor Milos Mladenovic on his sixty-fifth birthday by his students. *H. C. Schlieper*, general editor. Toronto: New Review Books, 1969. 251 pp. Paper.

The historical essays presented to Milos Mladenovic are a miscellaneous assortment ranging from the prehistoric Finn to World War II. Nineteen students of the respected Yugoslav professor of McGill University have written brief essays (averaging ten pages plus footnotes) in honor of his sixty-fifth birthday and have done their homework well. None of the contributions presents much original information, and some of the articles are better than others. The most interesting, at least for the novelty of their subjects, are the studies by A. Balawdier on "Canadian Fears of Soviet Competition, 1929-1932" and Joseph Tarnovecky on "Canadian Press Reaction to the Sale of Alaska." The most scholarly, if somewhat esoteric, are A. C. Hobbs's essay on Ottoman feudalism, Edward Laine's on "Tacitus and the Pre-Historic Finn," and G. E. Orchard's on the frontier policy of Boris Godunov. The rest of the contributions are competent.

A striking feature of the Festschrift is the youth of the authors and the fact that they are associated with small Canadian and American colleges and universities. It is encouraging to note that interest in Slavic and East European history transcends the academic empires established after World War II and, even more so, that work of high caliber is produced by members of faculties of institutions where the former students of Professor Mladenovic are now pursuing scholarly careers. Professor Mladenovic and his students deserve our felicitations.

STEPHEN FISCHER-GALATI
University of Colorado

L'UDOVÍT ŠTÚR UND DIE SLAWISCHE WECHSELSEITIGKEIT: GESAMTE REFERATE UND DIE INTEGRALE DISKUSSION DER WISSENSCHAFTLICHEN TAGUNG IN SMOLENICE, 27.-29. JUNI 1966. Edited by *L'udovit Holotik*. Bratislava: Verlag der Slowakischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, in cooperation with Verlag Hermann Böhlau Nachf., Vienna, Cologne, and Graz, 1969. 445 pp. DM 44.

This volume contains the papers and formal discussion of a symposium held in Smolenica, Czechoslovakia, in June 1966 on L'udovit Štúr and the theme of Slavic reciprocity. The contributions of thirty scholars from Eastern and Western Europe are included. The conference did not propose to trace Štúr's life or his role in the Slovak national movement of the 1840s. These questions have been the subject of an excellent, though now somewhat dated, study in French by Helena Tourtzer (Turcerová), *Louis Štúr et l'idée de l'indépendance slovaque (1815-1856)* (1913), and of a number of fine studies by Slovak historians over the past half-century (Golaň, Ormis, Ambruš, Rapant, Butvin, as well as several contributors to this volume). The theme of the conference was rather to examine key issues of inter-Slavic rela-