

Professor Dziewanowski analyzes the dramatic and revolutionary events of twentieth-century Poland: the successful national struggle for statehood after more than a hundred years of foreign domination by the three partitioning powers, the difficult process of reconstruction in the interwar period and the international instability which marked the beginning and the end of the Second Polish Republic, and the destructive, tragic war years which were only to be followed by the Communist takeover and the Soviet Union's hegemonic control over the People's Republic of Poland. Despite Dziewanowski's obvious empathy with the Poles' frustrations in their "role of vassals in a vassal state," his account of over thirty years of Communist rule is not entirely negative. He points out that Poland in the mid-1970s is a "more viable state than before the war, with better shaped frontiers and a more balanced social and ethnic structure." He provides detailed examples and statistics which demonstrate impressive post-1945 economic, educational, and cultural achievements. In addition, Dziewanowski argues that, despite the authoritarian political order, the Communists have had to come to terms with the traditional national characteristics of the Polish people: their pervasive sense of history and patriotism, closely linked with Roman Catholicism; their identification with Western traditions and historical suspicion of and antipathy to the East; their individualism in opposition to the "collectivist and totalitarian Communist system." Contemporary Poland is, therefore, unique in the Communist world, both because of the powerful role that the Roman Catholic Church exerts in the life of the nation and the predominantly private ownership in the agricultural sector. Moreover, as the 1975 constitutional crisis demonstrated, Edward Gierek, like his predecessor, Wladyslaw Gomulka, must accommodate the fiercely nationalistic sentiments of the population without incurring Soviet intervention into Polish affairs.

Throughout his study, Dziewanowski stresses the geopolitical circumstances which have influenced Poland from the tenth century until the present time. He also outlines weaknesses in the country's national character that have made it vulnerable to foreign domination. Yet, in his analysis of the Poles' excessive individualism, messianic romanticism, and idealism, and in the comparisons he makes between the Polish national character and that of the Irish and Spanish, these "faults" appear as "virtues." The result is that the Poles are depicted as a heroic people, but the question posed by Dziewanowski is left unanswered: "Will the Poles be able to adjust themselves to the role with which World War II and the Western policy of *détente* has saddled them without having their distinct historic identity eroded?"

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FRANTIŠEK A. ZACH. By *Václav Žáček*. Prague: Melantrich, 1977. 324 pp. Plates. Kčs. 30.

František A. Zach had a remarkable career, and he deserves this first-rate biography by the eminent Czech historian, *Václav Žáček*. Zach was born in Olomouc in 1807 and died in Brno in 1892. A strong Czech patriot and revolutionary, Zach was dissuaded from taking part in the Greek revolution by his father. Later, however, he participated in the Polish revolt of 1831, as a result of which he was forced to flee to Paris, where he came to know Prince Adam Czartoryski and learned of his plans for Eastern Europe. Eventually, Zach became Czartoryski's emissary and confidant in Belgrade. Zach's goal was to persuade the Serbian government to adopt an anti-Russian and anti-Austrian policy, which Czartoryski hoped would help Poland regain her independence sometime in the future. Zach gained the confidence of Serbian officials, in particular Ilija Garašanin, the foreign minister. In order to implement Czartoryski's policies, Zach drafted a plan in 1844 and presented it to Garašanin,

who subsequently incorporated most of Zach's ideas into a document known as the *Načertanije*. Thereafter, Zach was almost constantly in the service of the Serbian state. In 1848, he went to the Prague Slavic Congress, where he served as vice-president of the South Slavic delegation. In 1849, Garašanin asked Zach to organize the Serbian Military Academy. Zach served, with interruptions, as its commandant under three Serbian princes—Alexander Karadjordjević, Michael Obrenović, and Milan Obrenović. During the reign of Michael, he was involved in developing plans for the Serbian railroads, and in 1868 he went to Athens as Prince Michael's emissary to sign the Serbian-Greek Alliance. Prince Milan considered appointing Zach minister of war, but instead made him his first adjutant, eventually with the rank of general. In 1876, Zach briefly commanded one of the Serbian armies against the Turks before an injury and other factors caused his removal from the battlefield. He strongly criticized the activities and command of Michael Cherniaev, the Russian general who was given command of the Serbian Moravian army. In 1882, Zach was pensioned and then retired to Brno.

In the nineteenth century, Czech, Slovak, and South Slav intellectuals and politicians maintained close relations and cooperated on many issues. When one thinks of this influence and cooperation, the name of Masaryk immediately comes to mind as well as those of Šafařík and Kollár. Yet, in this book, Professor Žáček demonstrates that Zach belongs among this distinguished company. In some respects he is even more important, because half a century before Masaryk, Zach—in his plan on which Garašanin based his *Načertanije*—clearly enunciated the basic issues which confronted the Serbs and Croats and the steps which would have to be taken to reconcile these two nations. Garašanin and the other Serbian officials chose not to follow Zach's advice, but they respected his abilities and kept him in their service for almost four decades.

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ČESKOSLOVENSKÁ SLAVISTIKA V LETECH 1918–1939. By *Milan Kudělka* et al. Prague: Academia, 1977. 469 pp. Kčs. 78.

Since the beginning of the National Revival among the Czechs and Slovaks about two centuries ago, studies of the history, culture, language, and literature of the various Slavic peoples have been growing steadily both in extent and depth. The two interwar decades—the era of the First Republic (1918–39)—were particularly significant for the development of modern Slavic studies in Czechoslovakia. It is this period that is the focus of the book under review, the first of several volumes designed to present a comprehensive history of Czechoslovak Slavistic scholarship.

In contrast to earlier works, which were not only more modest in scope but, for the most part, limited to philology, this volume attempts to encompass all relevant disciplines for the period in question. It presents a detailed account of the institutional bases developed in the newly established republic and lists the many individual scholars who contributed to the field, their different methodological approaches, and all of their important publications. The breadth of coverage makes the volume a valuable source of information for all those who are interested in recent Czechoslovak scholarship in Slavic studies, both generalized and particular.

An introductory section (pp. 10–16) outlining the framework of the development of Slavic studies in Czechoslovakia between the two world wars is followed by a chapter (pp. 17–36) offering an analysis of the theoretical conceptions of Slavistic scholarship during the period, the relevant bibliographic work, and the results of the study of the field's history. Chapter 2 (pp. 37–136) contains a thorough discussion of