

Grycz, H. Horodyski) or retired (A. Birkenmajer). The long time span in preparation, changes in personnel, gradual development of editorial policies, and employment of over five hundred contributors resulted in varying levels of presentation and up-to-dateness. But in general the editors should be praised for structural uniformity. The work is divided into 6,000 relatively short, descriptive articles and several long surveys pertaining to major areas and countries. The subject surveys include a statement of the problem, a general historical outline or subdivision by countries, and a history of the topic in Poland. Surveys of countries discuss the various fields of book science, stressing practical aspects such as bibliography, documentation, book trade, printing, libraries, librarianship, and so forth. The selection of headings does not always yield an easy approach to subjects, and this situation is aggravated by the lack of full indexing. Only a name index and subject outline are included. The latter, however, groups single entries under broad subject categories. This interesting approach, in my opinion, creates an extraordinarily useful book science handbook. Cross references are satisfactory. The articles are not signed, but both the editors, with their areas of responsibility, and contributors are listed.

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THE MEANING OF CZECH HISTORY. By *Tomáš G. Masaryk*. Edited with an introduction by *René Wellek*. Translated by *Peter Kussi*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1974. xxiii, 169 pp. \$9.95.

Publication of selections from Masaryk's writings was an excellent idea, for his work is often quoted but has not been readily available. This volume contains excerpts from several of Masaryk's books, including a speech on Jan Hus and the Czech reformation (delivered in 1910), the main chapters of *The Czech Problem* (*Česká otázka*), published in 1895, and two short texts on Palacký and Havlíček. We are warned, in the introduction, that "the selections are, on occasion, slightly abridged by dropping allusions to contemporary events that would require elaborate explanations." The omissions are unfortunate, however, because Masaryk's ideas, based on a practical approach, are frequently very close comments on contemporary events.

The introduction focuses on Masaryk's life and philosophy, mainly prior to the First World War, but it could have centered on the controversy surrounding the meaning of Czech history ("smysl českých dějin"). The controversy began in 1895, with the publication of *The Czech Problem*, and was not limited to discussions between intellectuals. On the contrary, the controversy stirred Czech public opinion, and Masaryk, even as president of the country, did not hesitate to take part in the quarrel. Historians, such as Joseph Pekař (*Masaryk's Czech Philosophy*, 1912) and Jan Slavík (*Pekař contra Masaryk*, 1929), were also directly involved in the controversy.

The Czech Problem is very illuminating and deserves to be read. By studying the Czech renaissance, Masaryk developed a political and moral program for the Czech nation. In the book on Palacký, he values moral strength and the influence of persuasion. He leans more toward the spiritual struggle of Chelčický, than toward the physical violence of Žižka. Rejecting both radicalism and reactionism as too negative, he expresses his sympathy for the views of Havlíček and his

political realism—"A political realist wants to make history." He condemns any excesses of nationalism, and supports Dobrovský against Jungmann and others, who tried to label Dobrovský as a traitor to the Czech nation, just as Masaryk himself was later considered a traitor during the Manuscripts controversy. Masaryk's struggle, however, is not only political: "Our real task is to overcome Rome within ourselves, to bring about our moral rebirth."

This book will be most helpful to all historians of Central Europe who are interested in both the "meaning" and the "spirit" of Czech history.

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REFORM AND CHANGE IN THE CZECHOSLOVAK POLITICAL SYSTEM: JANUARY–AUGUST 1968. By *Alex Pravda*. Beverly Hills and London: Sage Publications, 1975. 96 pp. £1.30. \$3.00, paper.

Alex Pravda's monograph on the interaction of reform and change in Czechoslovakia in 1968 is concise and useful. For the most part, the author succeeds in his attempt both to synthesize the reform proposals and to examine how extensively they translated into political change. He does pinpoint the gap between theory and reality, but it is somewhat ambitious, almost smug, to then judge in what measure discrepancies can be divided between problems of implementation and weaknesses of reform concepts. Eight months is an agonizingly short time for policy-makers to get their heads straight about the direction of change, come to even a tentative consensus with other political elites, and begin to restructure political relations. There is also a lack of sensitivity to problems inherent to the different ordering of reform priorities among Czechs, who put democratization first, and Slovaks, who consider equality within a genuinely federal system a prerequisite for even talking about meaningful democracy.

Nonetheless, the author has filled an important gap in the already substantial literature devoted to the Czechoslovak experiment with reform communism during those exciting, euphoric months known as the Prague Spring. He has summarized the core of that experiment, placed it within a theoretical framework, and dealt with some of the toughest problems involved in moving from a closed authoritarian system toward democratic socialism. He does all of this in just under 100 pages, in a clear understandable writing style—a considerable service to both students and professors struggling with a dilemma of outrageously expensive hardbacks, out-of-print paperbacks, and an enormous amount of reading.

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ÖSTERREICH-UNGARN UND DER FRANZÖSISCH-PREUSSISCHE KRIEG, 1870–1871. By *István Diószegi*. Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1974. viii, 311 pp. \$15.00.

Students of nineteenth-century foreign policy have every reason to welcome this translation of István Diószegi's book, published in Hungarian in 1965. Based upon extensive research in the Haus-, Hof-, and Staatsarchiv in Vienna, the Saxon Landeshauptarchiv in Dresden, and the Deutsche Zentralarchiv in Potsdam