

the regime and from the population. In a diligent search Professor Mehnert has found some cases of sneaking sympathy for the dropouts who have decided that the world is corrupt and try to preserve their integrity by walking away from it. But Soviet readers of the mass media have had little chance to listen to the voices of the disaffected West precisely because of the fear that it might strike a responsive chord. Drug abuse, the disintegration of the family, and apathy are problems in Soviet society, too, but Soviet leaders are too uncertain and defensive to permit alienation to be discussed as a common feature of industrial society. It has to be treated as peculiar to Western society and it only makes it worse that self-styled revolutionaries attracted so much attention as examples of the phenomenon. Soviet leaders reveal their lack of confidence in their own society by the gingerly way in which they treat protest in capitalist society.

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A HISTORY OF MIDDLE EUROPE: FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO THE AGE OF THE WORLD WARS. By *Leslie C. Tihany*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 1976. xvi, 289 pp. + 9 pp. maps. Tables. \$16.50.

The title of this book is misleading. By Middle Europe, one generally understands the economic and defense union of the Central Powers as envisaged by Friedrich Naumann in World War I. Dr. Tihany's ambitious enterprise represents, however, a history of the peoples between Germany and Russia from preliterary times to the end of the Second World War. It is roughly similar in scope to the late Oscar Halecki's *Borderlands of Western Civilization*.

The grandeur of the author's topic, covered in little more than 250 pages of text, leads him, particularly in the first half of the book, to the cumulative discussion of numerous ethnic groups in chapters with sweeping headings such as "The landlocked territorial imperative" and "The Drang nach Osten." This method makes it almost impossible for the layman to trace the history of any specific ethnic group. Furthermore, the arrangement is of no benefit to the expert, who will be stunned by the flood of unprovable generalizations. In his introduction the author asserts: "To be progressive as well as cumulative the presentation must include the most recent research published in non-Western languages. . . . This book has tried to keep abreast of recent research. . . ." The reader will not find confirmation of these undoubtedly sincere intentions. The sources cited in the notes are extremely limited and in the main are restricted to rather general works, most of them in English but also quite a few in Magyar and some in French and German. This in itself does not impair the value of the survey, but twenty references to one general work on Byzantine history in twenty-nine notes of chapter 3 or eighteen references to the *Cambridge History of Poland* in thirty notes of chapter 13 do seem to conflict with the author's claim. In this context the "Bibliographical Guide" is as brief as it is strange. The modern standard bibliographies on East Central Europe by Horecky, which list and annotate works in the vernacular languages as well as in English, are ignored, but the *Journal of Central European Affairs* which went out of existence many years ago is still faithfully listed.

Factual errors and misstatements may be unavoidable in a volume of this range. Only very few of the major ones can be mentioned here. Use of the term "Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation" is incorrect. So is a reference to the German Reich of 1871, with minorities less than 10 percent of its population, as a multinational empire on a par with imperial Russia and the Habsburg Empire (p. 209). It is preposterous to call Emperor Frederick II, one of the greatest minds of the High Middle Ages, a

proto-Nazi (p. 50). This kind of judgment may, of course, be attributable to the author's curious semantics. In the Russo-Turkish war of 1877-78 he refers to the Russians as "victorious but diarrheic" while the Turks are just "bloody but unbowed" (p. 180). As to other points: Jean Baptiste Colbert held several important positions but never that of "foreign minister" (p. 123). The statement that the Socialist deputies in the Vienna parliament voted for war credits in August 1914 is incomprehensible, because, in fact, the Austrian parliament was adjourned from March 1914 to May 1917 (p. 207).

A certain fluency and skill in the narration should not be denied. Also some colorful details including gory samples of medieval cruelties may interest the reader. Beyond this, the layman who peruses the volume will gain insight into the difficulties of the author's task and the commendable efforts to overcome them. And one certainly must not forget a main asset of the volume, the thoughtful though all too brief foreword by John Campbell. All this helps to justify the production of the book. But why it had to be undertaken by a university press in these days of crisis for scholarly publications is another matter.

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THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE OF EASTERN EUROPE: TRANSITION AND PROCESS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HUNGARY, POLAND, ROMANIA, AND YUGOSLAVIA. Edited by *Bernard Lewis Faber*. New York: Praeger Publishers, 1976. xvi, 419 pp. \$25.00.

Professor Faber has produced a solid and useful volume on the sociology of Eastern Europe, which quite properly relies heavily on contributions from East European sociologists. The volume is of broader interest in that it demonstrates the range of work being done by East European sociologists and calls attention to some of the contributions by their North American colleagues working in the same field. The material in the book goes well beyond its title, for it includes contributions on the family, urban life, and factory organization.

The strongest contributions are by the East Europeans, particularly the excellent and succinct summary by W. Wesolowski ("The Notions of Strata and Class in Socialist Society"), which attempts to make operational, in a solid and undogmatic way, the two concepts as they are used in social science research in Poland. In practice, it is extraordinarily difficult to make the notion of class operational in research in any society since it contains both objective indicators of location in the productive process and subjective indicators on the level of class consciousness of a given group. Work of contemporary sociologists in this field increasingly stresses the fact that class consciousness can only be adequately measured in periods of mobilization and conflict, and since no systematic study of the recent strike wave in Poland is likely to be produced in the near future, we are left with the more passive studies reflecting workers' consciousness in periods of relative peace and stability.

The section on Poland is generally outstanding. It includes a major contribution by Zygmunt Bauman ("Social Dissent in the East European Political System"), and excellent chapters by Zagorski on "Social Mobility in Poland," and by Fishman from Oregon on "Education and Social Mobility in People's Poland." The section on Yugoslavia is somewhat disappointing and surprisingly so in view of the contributions made by Yugoslav sociologists in the past decade. The problem is in large part ex-