

1946, although it was preceded by a similar visit to Moscow. Historians may experience some revelations. For example, the president's message to Congress in March 1947 concerning the Truman Doctrine "explained that the economic results achieved by the Soviet Union as well as the progress of democratic forces in Central and South Eastern Europe, 'endanger the security of the United States'" (pp. 200–201).

Besides the narrative, the text contains a selection of documents from the Hungarian Foreign Ministry in addition to numerous references to materials published in the Soviet Union and in Western countries. Regrettably, some important Western sources are not used. For example, the perfunctory discussion of the Churchill-Stalin "percentage agreement" of 1944, which set the Soviet and British influence in Hungary on a 50-50 percent basis, does not mention the original source, Winston Churchill's *Triumph and Tragedy* (Boston, 1953, pp. 226–28). All in all, the perspective and methods of the book faithfully mirror the orthodox Stalinist interpretation of events practiced in the Rákosi era.

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A HISTORY OF THE BALKAN PEOPLES. By *René Ristelhueber*. Edited and translated by *Sherman David Spector*. New York: Twayne, 1971. xiii, 470 pp.

The publishers of this work state that they decided to avail "both students and laymen" of an English translation of René Ristelhueber's *Histoire des peuples balkaniques*, published in 1950, because they felt there was a need for an introductory survey of the history of the Balkan peoples. The author, René Ristelhueber, was a French diplomat who at various times served his country in the Balkans. He died in 1960. Sherman D. Spector (professor at Russell Sage College) was responsible for the revision and translation of this book. In his preface Spector writes that the book is not for those who are seeking a "critical, scholarly, or exhaustive history of the Balkan peoples," but is intended to serve as a one-volume "basic introduction" to the history of the Balkan peoples.

That there is need for a good survey of the history of the Balkan peoples is true. Unfortunately, this book falls short of that modest desideratum. It glosses over many important issues and topics that even the average reader should be familiar with. Practically nothing is said about the character of the diverse Balkan societies and cultures. The book is hardly more than a chronicle of major military and political moments in the history of the Balkan peoples. Some observations are flippant and some characterologies are based on legend. In one place, for example, the author tells us that the Macedonians are "apparently of both Serb and Bulgarian origins" (p. 173) and in another that the Serbs are "the most authentic Slavs in the Balkans" (p. 185). Yet despite these defects, one does encounter some good observations and insights in the book, and Professor Spector's summation of major developments in the Balkans since 1950 is done meticulously and with authority.

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