Considéré comme partie intégrante du patrimoine du bénéficiaire, au début, le privilège de foire peut être transmis, échangé, donné en bail, partagé etc. Ce chapitre révèle l'intérêt manifesté par la société (le prince, les bénéficiaires, les visiteurs), à l'égard de cette forme d'échange, tout en permettant d'établir des parallèles avec l'institution similaire d'Europe. Il s'en détache une nette évolution de la foire, dont le statut juridique modifié n'opère plus en vertu d'un privilège féodal, mais en tant que valorisation de la propriété bourgeoise absolue ou de la propriété communale.

Les participants aux foires, les marchandises négociées et les taxes perçues forment l'objet du second chapitre, dont l'intérêt sociologique vint s'ajouter aux utiles données d'histoire économique. Nous y signalons également — pour l'histoire du commerce sud-est européen — les renseignements concernant les foires d'Uzunova, de Sliven et de Prilep, ainsi que celles ayant trait aux marchandises balkaniques.

Le IIIᵉ chapitre nous offre La disposition topographique des foires, c'est-à-dire leur répartition géographique, en dressant un répertoire des foires qui ont fonctionné en Valachie entre 1774–1848. L'auteur emploie des documents d'archives et établit ce répertoire par ordre alphabétique des districts. La situation de chaque foire est présentée par ordre chronologique, leurs possesseurs y étant aussi mentionnés.

De brefses conclusions retracent une vue synthétique de l'évolution de cette institution de la foire, dont la fonction économique cessa dans la seconde moitié du XIXᵉ siècle, à la suite du développement de l'économiecapitaliste et de la consolidation du marché national.

La riche documentation de ce livre et sa clarté en font une lecture tout aussi agréable qu'utile. Loin d'être une monographie aride, cet ouvrage fait revivre devant nos yeux ce monde actif et pittoresque des commerçants qui a été pour beaucoup dans le développement des villes balkaniques.

Bucarest

CORNELIA PAPACOSTEA- DANIELOPOLU


Although we have seen lately several books on the cross-currents in contemporary Romania, we are certainly glad to welcome this short contribution to the growing row of such studies. The very fact that it has already been published also in Polish translation in London, and in the French translation in Paris, certifies to its worth.

The enigma of Romania's apparently perilous brinkmanship in relations with its menacing neighbor, the USSR, has fascinated us since Gheorghe Gheorghiu-Dej first challenged Moscow in the late 1950s by insisting on economic independence and asserting the equality of nations and the need for non-interference in internal affairs. Ratiu spells out the background to the cat-and-mouse game played with the Soviets, while the West supplied the trade and technology needed to fulfil the plan to communise Romania.
Ratiu tells how Gheoghiu-Dej, founder of Romania’s monolithic Communist Party, forced through an industrialisation program, refusing to be swallowed by the Soviet bloc’s COMECON, and created, by this show of independence, an upsurge of nationalistic patriotism. But Ratiu challenges the view taken by many Western commentators that Dej shared these nationalistic feelings, and shows him as a dedicated Stalinist who merely exploited the natural response of a people who saw glimpses of their nation’s lost values.

Ratiu also does not attribute patriotic motives to Dej’s successor in 1965, Nicolae Ceausescu, who pursued the same independent line: trading with the West, criticising the invasion of Czechoslovakia and flirting with Peking.

Then gradually came the swing back to Marxist-Leninist orthodoxy with Ceausescu’s shock 1971 speech outlining the “mini-cultural revolution;” the gradual return to the Soviet orbit under the pressure of a conciliatory Brezhnev, and the eventual membership of the COMECON and the Warsaw Pact. But still the paradox exists: the links with the West persist, with approaches to GATT, to the Common Market, and even to the international Monetary Fund.

Ratiu offers an answer to this seeming contradiction: Moscow is not without benefit from the globe-trotting Ceausescu’s highly personalized dictatorship. But what of the future? He paints a vivid panorama of life under the privileged oligarchs: the shortages, the informers, and the frustrations. However, he also convincingly asserts the strength of the anti-communism of the Romanian people and the continued clinging to traditional values. Communists have not captured the spirit of the people, claims Ratiu. “They have created a moral crippled with a split personality.”

The work is quite readable. That there are no supporting references and footnotes is no handicap to this excellent work, quite convincing with its details.

There is also a bibliography (pp. 131-133); it is actually the weakest part of Ratiu’s presentation, for several recent works, covering the same field, are not noted. (As a minor point: this reviewer’s book, Contemporary Romania and Her Problems, was not published by a “California University Press, 1932”, but by the Stanford University Press, and reprinted in 1971 by Arno Press, New York).

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JOSEPH S. ROUCEK


This is an excellent, brief study of the very critical period in the recent history of the Middle East and southeastern Europe, when World War I was coming to its end, the Ottoman Empire was cracking to its doom, and the Turkish Republic was aborning. Appropriately, the author, of Cypriot Turkish ethnic origin, begins his study with the Armistice of Mudros (October 30, 1918), the story of the conflicting claims against the crumbling Ottoman Empire, and the Greek invasion of Izmir and