

1937): actually, it is "A.A. Pallis" who is the author of this work. One of the best studies of the region, covering much more comprehensively this very field, is not noted: Alan Palmer, *The Lands Between: A History of East-Central Europe Since the Congress of Vienna* (Macmillan, 1970).

In general, this publication is in no sense a penetrating work of academic significance, although it provides a readable prelude to its subject. As a historical contribution it is interesting but indistinguished.

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Max Gallo, *Mussolini's Italy: Twenty Years of the Fascist Era*, translation of *L'Italie de Mussolini* by Charles Lam Markmann, New York, Macmillan Publishing Co. Inc., 1973, pp. xii+452.

Fascist Italy has a remarkably small literature in comparison with the mass of material on the Third Reich. One reason is that the major elements in the tragicomic history of the long fascist dictatorship have been well known for many years. This general and straightforward narrative by Professor Gallo of the University of Nice offers additional details but no surprises. The author shows clearly how the regime rested upon vanity and opportunism, functioned through confusion and corruption, and temporarily concealed its real nature behind pretentious claims and pompous display. Yet a weakness of this book is that it too often includes rather trivial or anecdotal material while it neglects detailed discussion and analysis of significant questions.

Readers interested in Italian foreign relations will be particularly disappointed by Gallo's limited treatment. His emphasis on chronological development and domestic issues prevents any full explanations of international problems. But in Chapter 13 he does make it clear that no planned program, no consistent policy, no capable and experienced leadership guided Italy's foreign affairs. Mussolini was soon trying only to keep up with Hitler. The whole move into the Balkans is shown in this way. Albania is described as compensation for Austria and Czechoslovakia; Greece was to "restore the balance" after Germany occupied Romania. Fearing some of his military commanders would object to his continuing aggressiveness, Mussolini did not forewarn them but supposedly vowed to Ciano, "I will resign my Italian nationality if anyone makes any fuss about fighting Greeks". Gallo's account has little new on that tragic campaign (pp. 320-326) or the subsequent total collapse of Italy. But he presents a valuable picture of a regime where personal vanity and political miscalculations had become disastrously routine under "a man who was drunk on power and who played with its appurtenances as if he were a child whose dream had come true" (p. viii).

There are a number of points on which the book must be criticized. The author's focus on Mussolini is at times misleading. His interpretation is at its best when he places Mussolini in the domestic milieu that created and sustained fascism. When he deals with international questions, however, his presentation is much too simple. Because of the almost total lack of footnotes and bibliography it is impossible to determine the sources of various quotations and assertions. Nor is the translation always smooth and free from misprints. For all these reasons this new work does not replace the respected older studies. But like another recent book on the same subject, Denis Mack Smith's *Mussolini's Roman Empire*, it should serve the more general reader quite well.

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