

L. S. Stavrianos, *The Balkans since 1453*. New York: Rinehart and Company, 1958, 970 pp., maps, illustrations. \$ 12.50.

The Balkan area has not been neglected by American scholarship. In the interwar period, Ferdinand Schevill, *History of the Balkan Peninsula* (New York, 1922) filled the needs of the student and general reader even more than W. S. Davis, *A Short History of the Near East* (New York, 1922), in which the Near East was treated as almost identical with the Balkans. Both works conclude with the events of 1922, and have been long outdated. In the postwar years, there have been several books on Balkan history and society, most of them of topical interest. An outstanding contribution, both for its quality and its scope, is Robert L. Wolff, *The Balkans in Our Time* (Cambridge, Mass., 1956), which concentrates on the countries north of Greece and on the period since the First World War.

Taking each individual Balkan country, Yugoslavia has attracted the greatest attention in the United States, especially since 1948, and Greece has followed at some distance, with several books and scholarly articles that appeared during the decade immediately after the Second World War. The wide variety of interests and specializations on the part of America's Balkanists was revealed in the first Conference on Balkan Studies that was held at the University of California at Berkeley, in June, 1960, with the participation of distinguished scholars from Greece and other foreign countries. Professor L. S. Stavrianos, who took part in that conference, is the author of three books and a large number of scholarly articles on Greece and the Balkans and has offered his most significant contribution in the form of a comprehensive history, which is the subject of this review.

*The Balkans since 1453* is the most complete one-volume history of that historical peninsula, from the fall of Constantinople to the aftermath of the Second World War. After a detailed and penetrating introduction, which forms Part I of the book, Parts II and III deal with Ottoman ascendancy and decline. Part IV presents the rise of nationalism among the Balkan peoples up to 1878. About one-half of the book comprises Parts V and VI, which concentrate on the period, before and after 1914 respectively. The volume closes with bibliographical references and a bibliography, which is richer than many bibliographies of this nature insofar as it includes works in Eastern European languages and in the languages of the Balkan peoples. The author is familiar with most of these languages, including Greek, which is connected with his ethnic background.

What is most remarkable about Professor Stavrianos' book is its sense of proportion, amidst conflicting national ideologies and interpretations. He steers away from all chauvinistic trends. He seeks the causes of historical phenomena with an objectivity that is hard to find among historians of the various national schools and even among Western authors who often become partial to one of the Balkan or

Near Eastern countries. The Ottoman Empire, for example, is presented in this book with all its merits and demerits, and its relation to the Byzantine Empire is duly recognized. The role of the Christian Church is also given its proper place in the development of Balkan nations. The author dismisses as unwarranted the Bulgarian nationalist myth that the Greek clergy exploited the Bulgarian people during Ottoman domination as part of a program to absorb the non-Greek Christians of the Balkans. "The fact is", he says, "that in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries the ideas 'Greek' and 'culture' were identified one with another". The stories of the First and Second World Wars, as well as the problems of the interwar period, are set out on the basis of documents and authentic narratives. The protagonists of the great drama—all the way from Archduke Francis Ferdinand to President Josip Broz-Tito—are portrayed in vivid but factual character-sketches. Motivation, influence of environment, economic and social factors, literary and intellectual trends are all studied as integral parts of history.

As regards style, the present reviewer is most favorably impressed by the quality of Stavrianos prose. Page after page, in all the 845 pages of the narrative, the reader never experiences a sense of boredom. Not only his interest is kept alive, but there is also an element of suspense, despite the fact that the sequel of the story is known beforehand. There is such a genuine quality of human interest, and such an intellectual freshness in the panoramic view of centuries and peoples, that *The Balkans since 1453* affords fascinating reading for the general public as well as solid scholarship for the student.

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G. G. ARNAKIS

Στίλπωνος Π. Κυριακίδου, Περί τήν ἱστορίαν τῆς Θράκης. Ὁ ἑλληνισμός τῶν συγχρόνων Θρακῶν. Αἱ πόλεις Ξάνθη καὶ Κομοτινή. [*Stilpon P. Kyriakides, Aus der Geschichte Thraziens. Das Griechentum der heutigen Thraker. Die Städte Xanthe und Komotine*]. Ἐταιρεία Μακεδονικῶν Σπουδῶν. Ἰδρυμα Μελετῶν Χερσονήσου τοῦ Αἴμου, ἀριθ. 36. Θεσσαλονίκη 1960.

Äusserlich handelt es sich um drei Vorträge, welche der allbekannte und ehrwürdige Präsident der Gesellschaft für Mazedonische Studien, Universitätsprofessor Herr St. P. Kyriakides, 1953 in Xanthe, 1954 und 1959 in Komotine auf Einladung von dortigen Organisationen gehalten hat und die vom Institut für Balkanstudien derselben Gesellschaft mit Anmerkungen und Abbildungen in neuer Bearbeitung 1960 herausgegeben worden sind.

Vorträge pflegen oft schon bekanntes umfangreicheres Material zusammenzufassen und es einem breiteren Publikum von Nichtspezialisten in schlichter, angenehmer Form kurz darzubieten. In unserem Fall aber verhält sich die Sache bei weitem nicht so. Der Stoff aller drei Vorträge war bisher nicht einmal Spezialforschern bekannt. Prof.