

monetary system cannot be reconstructed in an environment of persistent world-wide inflation. The author has precisely and deeply analysed the problem pinpointing in a clear manner the roots of world-wide inflation. It is perhaps for the first time in the history of economics that the subject of inflation has been given a highly satisfactory treatment. The question arises, however, as to whether the rearrangement of priorities and practices needed to achieve the desired objectives can be affected without any costs.

A book highly recommended for the economist. It is a real service to the public policy makers, yet it is simple enough for the general public to read and comprehend.

I.B.R.D

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Charles F. Delzell (ed.), *Mediterranean Fascism, 1919-1945*, New York, Harper & Row, 1970, pp. 364.

This work is a collection of speeches and documents which surveys the evolution of fascism in the Mediterranean region. Drawing upon newspaper reports, official gazettes, and archival materials, the editor, a noted student of recent Italian history, attempts to lead the reader «through the shifting and often far from crystalline currents of Mediterranean fascism».

Within the narrow framework characteristic of every work of this type, the editor's endeavor is successful. He has brought together an array of primary material that illuminates the formalistic structure of right-wing radicalism in the region. The examination of Italy is especially detailed with documentary material on social and economic policies in addition to political affairs. Of special interest are several documents detailing the nature of Italian racial policy in the late thirties. Fascist organization in Spain is treated more briefly while the rightist regime in Portugal is represented by only three documents. While most of the documents have appeared in other publications, many have been translated by the editor and are appearing in English for the first time. In addition to the official material, the editor provides a brief introduction to each chapter in an attempt to provide historical background.

This work will provide little new information for the specialist and its narrow focus weakens its utility as an introduction to fascism. Despite the brief commentaries, there is little attempt to place Mediterranean fascism within the context of political and social developments in Europe or to relate the particular experiences of Italy, Spain, and Portugal to the more general phenomena of authoritarian movements in the interwar years. At most this work can serve as a supplement to a more detailed study of fascism.

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Louis O'Kney, *What Price Freedom?* New York, Vintage Press, 1972, pp. 124.

The *What Price Freedom* is an excellent account in fictionalized form about the political complexities and internal upheavals which beset the small nation of Slovenia in Yugoslavia during World War II, when that country was occupied by fascists and Nazis and was torn apart from within by nationalists, communists and other political groups and factions. This is by no means a history of Slovenia during the war years. And yet the events which occurred in that country were similar to those of almost every East European nation during

this period. Home Guards, White Guards, Blue Guards, Communist Party, Front of Liberation, Freedom's Fighters, clerical groups, splinter groups, civil strife, and the horrors of war could be found and easily identified with their counterparts in other nations of this area, especially in the Balkan peninsula. The merit of O'Kney's book is not that he describes a local episode from the history of his beloved Slovenia, but that that particular example can serve a more general purpose and can be applied to any nation which knew foreign occupation, internal strife and civil war.

The story begins on the eve of the outbreak of the war and ends, somehow abruptly, with Tito's breaking away from the communist bloc in 1948. The central character of the story is a Catholic priest, who, caught in the midst of foreign and internal turmoil, attempts to keep an equilibrium among the various political forces of the left and the right. Through him and through the voices of a series of other characters the author gives a vivid description of the feelings of the people toward the ravages of war and of their attitude and response toward the various political factions and groups which dominated the scene in Slovenia. Some of the names of small localities in Slovenia are disguised in English names for «the wounds must be still deep and memories still bitter». And so are the names of the principal characters. And yet the circumstances and the scenes which they go through reflect the reality of the time.

The internal political struggle centers around two antagonistic groups: the nationalists and the communists, with the Catholic Church caught in between. The role of the Church is depicted throughout the story. The author indicates that the Church was not a reactionary institution as the communists maintained, nor did it dominate the people, but on the contrary, it took an active part in the political and cultural process in Slovenia before the war while during the occupation tried to survive itself from the internal vicissitudes and champion the cause of the people. The nationalists and the communists engaged themselves into civil strife, killing and murdering each other, both factions aspiring to achieve their own goals, and both trying to prove the righteousness of their cause. The author stresses particularly the role of the communists and their tactics and propaganda which they followed throughout the course of war. By attempting to justify the righteousness of their movement and their aims, they accused their opponents—the nationalists, the Church, and all those who stood against them—of betraying the country and the people. Following the dictum that the end justifies the means, they used every conceivable weapon to achieve their goals. While they tried to avoid being hated, they employed the tactics of terror and fear, for terror and fear instill obedience, conformity and submission, something which they had in the long run succeeded in achieving. Zealous supporters and advocates of the communist ideals and of the Soviet Union, they attacked the Western powers, while exalting Stalin and his personal cult, and raising him to a demi-god on earth.

And yet the ravages of World War II, the mistakes, the sufferings and the many victims of the civil strife, and the disappointments after the end of war, taught the people that no political system or ideology holds the key to truth. The assertion of Tito's independent path of communism and his breaking away from the communist world in 1948 are indicative in this respect. Secondly, the Church can co-exist within the communist system and still be a servant of the people. And finally, that history teaches us that we can always learn from our past experiences and mistakes.

The story, written in a delightful style, can be useful to all those who are interested in the history of this area during the years of World War II.