

Stevan K. Pavlowitch, *Yugoslavia*, London, Ernest Benn Ltd., 1971, pp. 416.

This is another addition to the series on «Nations of the Modern World» published by Benn, which also includes the Campbell and Sherrard book on Greece.

The author provides a birds eye view of Yugoslav history from the Sixth Century A.D. to 1970. In this sense the book, although packed with historical information, often lacks in-depth analysis of some of the more crucial moments of Yugoslav history. The primary cause of this weakness is undoubtedly the magnitude of the task undertaken by the author in this one volume.

Pavlowitch maintains, and I feel he successfully shows, that Yugoslavia is too complex so that «it cannot be simplified or conceptualized without also being distorted out of all recognition» (p. 20). The author then attempts not only to dispel various myths surrounding Yugoslavia's past and present, but also to provide an accurate historical interpretation of Yugoslavia which he feels is lacking today from other current studies of that country.

The fascinating and overriding theme of the book has to do with the forces that worked toward the integration of Yugoslavia into one political unit, and also of the centrifugal forces that have simultaneously operated to divide Yugoslavia among its competitive constituent ethnic units. Even under Tito the attempt to integrate Yugoslavia under a common ideology seems to have failed, and this, along with the continuing economic problems of Yugoslavia, seems to raise serious questions about the future of the state, especially after Tito (now in his 80's) goes. Within the evolution of this thesis over the span of a thousand years, the reader will find substantive information that will assist him in understanding present-day Yugoslavia and its internal problems.

The Greek reader in particular, and the student of Balkan history and politics in general, will find that the book raises several interesting questions although some of these questions are left either inadequately answered or not at all. Examples of the latter case are to be found in the crucial period of World War II. Much like in Greece, British policy was crucial in determining the course of events in Yugoslavia. But why the differences in British policy toward Yugoslavia and Greece, especially toward the fall of 1944 and after? Would Yugoslavia's fate be different today had it been located in the place of Greece? Finally, in a capsule form, the reader will find informative but generally brief references on the Yugoslav overtures to the West after 1948, the Balkan Pacts of 1953-54, and the Macedonian issue.

Given the nature and the scope of the work, I would recommend it to anyone who wants to attempt to understand present-day Yugoslavia and its increasing internal problems.

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Cristian Popișteanu, *România și Antanta Balcanică. Momente și Semnificații de Istorie Diplomatică* (Romania and the Balkan Entente. Moments and Significances in Diplomatic History), with a Foreword by George Macovescu, Editura Politică, București, ed. I-1968; ed. II-1971, pp. 356.

This is a first work¹ based on archival materials, and devoted to the Balkan Entente, to its genesis and structure, to the complex political, military, economic, and cultural activity

1. Dr. Eliza Campus of the N. Iorga Institute of History also published recently a monograph on the Balkan Entente (*Înțelegerea Balcanică*. Editura Academiei R.S. Romania, București, 1972, pp. 398. Biblioteca Istorică XXXVI).