

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).

carried on by Greece, Yugoslavia, Romania and Turkey between 1934-1940. This diplomatic history of Dr. Cristian Popișteanu (the editor-in-chief of *Magazin Istoric*, a monthly review published at Bucharest) makes excellent use of the rich documentary collections to be found in the Archives of the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A few titles or subtitles selected from the book reveal the «Moments and Significances in Diplomatic History» which the author presents: «The Roots of the Balkan Rapprochement; A Locarno Treaty in the Balkans?; Balkan Endeavors for a Regional Pact; The Balkan Conferences, 1930-1933; The International Scene; The Balkans in Hitlerist Strategy; The Balkan Entente; The Stands of France, the USSR, Great Britain, Hitlerist Germany, and Fascist Italy; Concordances between the Diplomacy of the Balkan Entente and Collective Security; Towards a New Configuration of the Balkan Entente; Fascist Aggression in the Balkans; The Place of the Balkan Entente in Diplomatic History».

To begin with, Dr. Popișteanu pays particular attention to attempts at mutual understanding, cooperation and collaboration among the Balkan States — as much in the past as in the interwar period. He presents evidence that these tendencies prevailed over the contradictions and differences born in large part from prolonged foreign domination and the continued interference of neighboring great powers in Balkan politics. The author then points out that Romanian diplomacy took the initiative in organizing a regional European defensive security alliance in order to preserve the status-quo of the Versailles settlement. Consequently he credits Nicolae Titulescu, Foreign Minister of Romania 1932-1926 (President of the League of Nations, 1930-1931; Romanian Minister in London, 1924-1932), with carrying out this initiative.

The central part of the work covers the action by which the Balkan Entente —conceived as an antirevisionist *pièce de résistance* to the revisionist interests displayed by Hitler's Germany— made itself felt in international affairs. These actions were expressed mainly in the attitude of the Balkan Allies which was in favor of collective security in Europe and in opposition to the expansion of the Third Reich and Mussolini's Italy. Popișteanu also analyzes the position and responsibility of social classes and political parties in Romania on the eve of World War II. His general inference appears sound: the difficult conditions of Hitlerist and Fascist strategy confronted both the Balkan and the Little Ententes —the only two organizations of collective security in interwar Europe— and these essentially caused both to succumb to the offensive of the Axis.

Along with the role and place of Romania in the activity of the Balkan Entente, this work examines the relationship between the manifestations of independence of the South-east European states, both small and medium-sized, and the politics of the great powers in the interwar period: the correlation and antagonism of these two factors. Included is a substantial *Foreword* by professor George Macovescu (Romania's current Minister of Foreign Affairs) who subtly differentiates between the interwar situation and the present evolution of international relations in the Balkans.

In conclusion, one can easily agree with Arnold J. Toynbee's evaluations of this work as being an able, well-documented and objective contribution to the history of the Balkan Entente. «This is a piece of recent history» —the noted English historian adds in his *Afterword* to the second edition of Popișteanu's book— «that is relevant to present-day problems of international relations». An English version of the book is forthcoming.