

Stephen Fischer-Galati, ed., *Man, State, and Society in Eastern Europe*, New York, Praeger Publishers, 1970, pp. ix + 343.

Professor Stephen Fischer-Galati compiled this anthology of readings on Eastern Europe as his contribution to a series by Praeger Publishers on «Man, State, and Society» for major world areas. Dealing with the nations of Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, and Yugoslavia, this volume contains forty-three selections, thirty-one of which fall into the category of historical documents. With the exception of two essays, the contents span the period from the fall of Constantinople in 1453 to 1941. A limited bibliography of major monographs in English on Eastern Europe and a detailed index are helpful aids not customarily found in books of edited readings.

With the increased interest in Eastern Europe after 1945 and the introduction of specialized courses on its history and culture in American, Canadian, and English universities, there has arisen a market for materials other than basic texts and monographs. The demand for English translations of representative documents from the individual language groups has been largely met with his book. And, it might be added, Fischer-Galati's collection of readings and format are qualitatively better than those of the only other equivalent volume in the field: Alfred J. Bannan and Achilles Edelenyi, eds., *Documentary History of Eastern Europe*, New York, 1970.

A five-page «Introduction» establishes the thematic approach of the editor. Although many historians stress the adverse consequences of the lengthy periods of Habsburg, Ottoman, and Romanov domination, Fischer-Galati maintains that the «golden days of yore» of medieval East European civilizations reflected advance forms of feudalism and that these practices continued during the subsequent era of foreign control. With few exceptions, by the eighteenth century «Eastern Europe was essentially a feudal domain caught up in the problems of feudal societies» (p. vii). From the early nineteenth century and despite national revolts, many obstacles remained on the road to modernization and for the removal of feudal practices and attitudes in this troubled area. Analysts frequently ascribe slow modernization to the dearth of capital and to the region's location between Germany and Russia, but Fischer-Galati limits the importance of these factors. He chooses instead to stress the proclivities of the non-representative ruling elites which, in the interwar years preferred to enjoy the fruits of victory or, if on the losing side during World War I, sought to avenge defeat. He concedes that historic values had to be preserved. «But in their traditional forms, landlordism, nationalism, and authoritarianism were obsolete in the postwar period. Their demise occurred in World War II which also recorded the victory in Eastern Europe of the new totalitarianism of the Soviet Union» (p. ix).

Similarly, short prefatory remarks precede the four main parts of the book - The Historical Legacy: Eastern Europe before the Fall of Constantinople: The New Imperial Order: Continuity and Change (1453-1789): The Secularization of Eastern Europe (1789-1918): The Modernization of Eastern Europe (1918-1941). It is in these introductory sections of succinct interpretation that Fischer-Galati exposes himself to criticism. The complexities of East European history and the differences between the nations are too numerous to disentangle and to explain with brief profundities. A specialist in a particular nation or area of Eastern Europe instinctively conjectures on the accuracy of, or exceptions to the editor's sweeping generalizations for the entire region. At other moments certain statements require considerable clarification as, for example, on page 36 where Fischer-Galati in his comments on the Balkans after Ottoman conquest states: «The national identities of the subject peoples —Bulgarians, Serbs, Greeks, Albanians, Bosnians— were eradicated....». These pitfalls are,

however, inevitable in a work which seeks to provide unity of analysis for such a large geographical area and for over five centuries of developments. In any case, many of the editor's interpretive statements stimulate further historical discussion and debate.

Twenty-five of the readings deal exclusively, or in large part with the territory of the five Balkan states, and some of these selections will be cited here as of particular interest. The extracts from the «Turkish Letters» by Ogier Ghiselin de Busbecq, the Habsburg ambassador to Constantinople in 1555, emphasize the more colorful and culturally intriguing aspects of the Ottoman Empire during the last years of Suleiman the Magnificent's reign. «The Ottoman System», excerpted from a longer study by Walter Livingston Wright, Jr., in 1935, describes and evaluates the strengths and weaknesses of Ottoman institutions in the sixteenth century. The influence of the French Revolution on Southeastern Europe is treated in an essay by Nicholas Iorga, the distinguished Rumanian historian. The contemporary observations of Prince Gheorghe Cantacuzene of Moldavia and «Thourios: War Hymn» by Rhegas Pherraios capture the feelings for revolution among Greek patriots prior to 1821. The Hungarian economic historian, E. Niederhauser, in «The Problems of Bourgeois Transformation in Eastern and Southeastern Europe», highlights with a Marxist slant the difficulties involved in modernizing the underdeveloped states of this area in the last half of the nineteenth century. Khristo Botev's «The Sole Salvation Lies in Revolution» and Svetozar Markovich's «The Proposal of Fifteen for the Organization of the Youth of Serbia» provide insights into the programs of two Balkan social revolutionaries. «Information Concerning the Formation of Bands» acquaints the reader with the policies of the Internal Macedonian Revolutionary Organization (IMRO) in 1903 during the height of its struggle for control of Macedonia. A valuable analysis of the political systems during the interwar years is excerpted from Hugh Seton-Watson's *Eastern Europe between the Wars, 1918-1941* (1945). The agrarian question for this same period is discussed by David Mitran, a leading authority on peasant problems, in a selection from his *Marx against the Peasant* (1951). Irwin Sanders, a sociologist specializing in Balkan affairs, grapples with the issues of rural social organization and «familism» in his intensive study of a Bulgarian village prior to the outbreak World War II.

Professor Fischer-Galati in providing this potpourri of documents and essays, is to be commended for his wise selection of materials. As this reviewer can testify from personal experience, *Man, State, and Society in Eastern Europe* (available also in paperback) serves an important function in the organization of good reading list assignments for history courses on the Balkans and Eastern Europe. Individuals less academically inclined but interested in the region can also profit from its perusal. It is to be hoped that in the future, additional edited collections on East European themes will also be produced. For example, a volume stressing the rich culture, with English translations of folklore, poetry, and songs would be a valued contribution for an increased understanding of this fascinating section of Europe.

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Raul Hilberg, ed., *Documents of Destruction: Germany and Jewry 1933-1945*, Chicago, Quadrangle Books, 1971, pp. xii + 242.

This collection of documents selected and annotated by Professor Hilberg serves as an elaboration of the thesis on the Holocaust he presented in his earlier definitive study *The Destruction of the European Jews*. However, it also stands by itself as an incisive survey of