Henri Michel, *The Shadow War: European Resistance 1939-1945*, New York, Harper and Row, 1972, pp. 416.

Professor Henri Michel is undoubtedly the world's foremost historian of the European resistance during World War II. He is the president of the International Committee for the Second World War and author of innumerable books, every one of them excellent.

The Shadow War is a fascinating addition to this list. Professor Michel succeeds in conveying a view of the resistance as a totality, wherever and in whatever form it manifested itself, from the Ukraine to France, from Oslo to Athens. Having brought the resistance into focus as a socio-military movement of immense proportions, he then analyzes all of its constituent parts, piece by piece, layer by layer. In a world without rules, of utter anarchy, regulated only by the ferocious and barbaric discipline of the Nazis as a master race, he searches for the impulse that would lead, first, two people to overcome their terror and confide in each other, then three people to form a cell with the intent to resist. It was on this foundation, brick by brick, that the resistance was built. In this respect, *The Shadow War* can be almost described as a handbook that anyone can read. What is a «movement», a «circuit», how is a clandestine press created, how does one define «sabotage» and finally, how does all of this coalesce into a clandestine state within a state? Parallel to these mechanics, Professor Michel draws a portrait of the people who formed the organizations to resist, the intellectuals, the bourgeois, the workers, the peasantry, the aristocracy and the various conditions which led each group, inexorably, into the resistance. As the pieces of the resistance are laid out and as the armies of national liberation take shape, the reader discovers not only an analysis but a philosophic definition of man and society that arises out of the very construction of the resistance. The will to survive and the will to be free are born of the same impulse. The only differentiation is the state of awareness that brings some men faster to the realization that survival is no longer possible and that, paradoxically, to survive means to resist in the name of freedom. The reality of this cataclysmic experience, the German occupation, seems to be that a Hobbesian state of nature—nasty, brutish, short, survival without freedom—is not possible as a static condition.

Although Professor Michel avoids dealing directly with the resistance as a function of the cold war, the reality of allied military power cannot be ignored, and this relationship forms part of his conclusion. The resistance proved that certain conditions were intolerable to man, but that the will to resist, of itself, was not sufficient to guarantee success. German military power in and of itself was too strong. Only if the resistance accepted the aid and authority of the allies would it succeed. In the final analysis, the resistance was but a piece of a far vaster mosaic, the war itself. Where the allies were divided, as over Poland, and where, consequently, the Russians refused to come to the aid of the Home Army in the Warsaw uprising, the resistance was crushed. But perhaps Professor Michel could have gone one step further in the logic of this formula. In truth, where the allies willed that the resistance should not succeed, because of postwar politics, the allies were capable of actively crushing it, as in the case of the British suppression of the Greek resistance in December, 1944.

This is a book for everyone, general reader as well as specialist, for Europeans, East or or West, from the Balkans to Scandinavia, in sum, for all who once were truly united by a common ideal, resistance to the inhumanity of the Third Reich. We can all be grateful to Professor Michel for putting the European resistance back into its proper focus. The book was originally published in French (*La Guerre de l'Ombre*, 1970) and is available in Italian

as well, (*La Guerra Dell'Ombra,* 1972). The translation into English by Richard Barry is excellent, and the book deserves to achieve a wide circulation.

University of South Carolina HARRY CLIADAKIS

Kenneth Matthews, *Memories of a Mountain War: Greece 1944-1949*, London, Longman, 1972, pp. 276.

Among the many foreign correspondents assigned to «cover» the Greek civil war of 1946-49, two were destined to become the subjects of dramatic news stories themselves: George Polk, correspondent for the Columbia Broadcasting System, and BBC's Kenneth Matthews. Their totally different fates, one horrible and the other dangerous but with a happy ending, together make up one of the most cruel ironies of that period.

Aggressive, restless and critical of the Greek Government's tactics, Polk became impatient with press briefings about the conduct of the war and set out to realize the dream of every foreign journalist in Athens: an interview with the communist leadership in the mountains of northern Greece. On May 16, 1948, his body was found floating off the Salonica waterfront, a bullet in the head. Only a few months later Matthews, whose reporting had been generally favorable to the authorities and who appeared to be quite content with the comforts and distractions of the capital, was taken prisoner by a band of rebels while he was showing ancient Mycenae to a young lady from Austria. After an exhausting trek across the mountains of Peloponnesos, during which he observed the rebels at close range, interviewed their leaders and rank-and-file, shared their food and thoughts, and even received friendly radiograms from communist headquarters in the north, he was set free at Patras, completing the last leg of his odyssey in the relative comfort of a rickety public bus. To make the irony complete, Matthews' report on his kidnapping and life with the rebels was rejected by the BBC (which held the copyright on the story) because it was not «wholly unfavorable» to his captors and might thus «encourage the kidnapping of correspondents in other guerrilla wars...» His story remained untold for almost twenty-five years, until the publication of *Memories of a Mountain War:Greece 1944-1949.*

As the subtitle indicates, the book covers much more than the author's own adventure. Matthews accompanied the liberating forces and Papandreou Government to Athens and was an eye-witness to the December 1944 revolt that ensued. He observed the gradual breakdown of the Varkiza accord and the start of the communist «Third Round». He covered the work of the United Nations' Inquiry Commission on the Balkans, visited the rebel camp at Bulkes and went along on the Commission's unsuccessful attempt to interview Markos. In the fall of 1948, while the Greek army was taking the initiative against the rebels in the north, he had his unwelcome encounter with communist units in the Peloponnesos. He thus had prolonged and serious exposure to the postwar Greek scene. Matthews' writing style is powerful and lively, with an endearing touch of humor. In short, the book is a pleasure to read.

For all its literary appeal, as a piece of political reporting *Memories of a Mountain War* offers little that is new or different. One would have expected more precise information and penetrating commentary from the BBC's man in a war-ravaged country ablaze with revolutionary intrigue and violence, at a time when the British authorities were directly or indirectly involved in every aspect of the situation. Yet much of this slender book is devoted to the author's cultural pleasures in the company of romantic young ladies. If Matthews' regular reports to London were everything the circumstances called for, too little of their substance found its way into this volume.