

imperative, that had to be achieved at all cost, and would plead with Seton-Watson, Steed, Ferrero and Salvemini to help the cause of Yugoslavia's unification. These doubts, these fears, this duality of feelings were shared by other members of the Yugoslav Committee underscoring the difficulty of the Croat position during the First World War. Croatia was, after all, a part of the "enemy" Austro Hungarian Empire upon whose territories both the Italians and the Serbs had recognized claims. In this and other respects Supilo's correspondence confirms the testimony of Ivan Meštrović published in *Memoirs*, which appeared in 1961.

Šepić has published Supilo's letters and memoranda in the original languages in which they were written, whether in Croatian, English or Italian, depending on the addressee. He has also contributed a valuable and comprehensive introduction, as well as an index identifying the individuals mentioned in Supilo's correspondence, which is helpful to the reader. The very fact that Šepić's book was published in Belgrade by the Serbian Academy testifies to the high esteem in which Supilo's statemanship is held fifty years after his death, not only by Croats but by the Serbs as well.

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Leo Valiani, *La dissoluzione dell' Austria Ungheria*. Biblioteca di Storia Contemporanea 8. Casa Editrice Il Saggiatore. Milano, 1966. Pp. 505.

Recently Italian historiography has been enriched by a valuable new volume that deserves careful reading by all scholars interested in the perennially fascinating problems of the disintegration of the Dual Monarchy. Leo Valiani had previously drawn attention by publishing some of the chapters of his book in the *Rivista Storica Italiana*. Though a massive library already exists on the dissolution of the Habsburg Empire, Valiani has succeeded in offering original interpretations and making valuable new contributions to a more complete and balanced understanding of a complex and controversial subject.

Valiani is the first Italian historian to use extensively important Slavic source materials that are indispensable to the understanding of the centrifugal nationalism that contributed so much to the collapse of the Dual Monarchy, whose approach Metternich had already sensed a hundred years earlier. In writing his study, Valiani consulted the

welter of Croat, Serbian, Czech, Hungarian and Italian sources, including newspapers of the period and often unknown documentation scattered in various national journals, books, personal correspondence and memoirs of the leading political personalities of the time, who played an important role in destroying the Habsburg Empire.

Valiani's book goes back to the turn of the century when a new and far more dynamic generation of South Slav, Czech and Polish nationalists had become convinced that Austria-Hungary had to be destroyed if their own nationalities were to develop their identities. The book carefully documents the story of the mounting nationalistic passions that culminated in the Sarajevo assassination in 1914 and eventually led to the collapse of the monarchy in 1918. Valiani shows how amazingly blind the leaders in Vienna and Budapest were to the threat of the rising Slav nationalism. They took no genuine steps to initiate at least partial reforms that would have satisfied the more conservative elements among the monarchy's Slavs, by transforming the Dual Empire into a trialistic one. Vienna's apathy and Budapest's stubborn refusal to consider any concessions to the Slavs inevitably doomed the Empire.

The author seems to believe that the preservation of the Dual Empire would also have required timely concessions to the irredentisms of Italy and Rumania, so as to assure their neutrality in World War I. It is the author's firm conviction that Italy's entrance into the war in 1915, on the side of the Entente, determined the final collapse of the Habsburg Empire. But, of course, concessions to Italian irredentism have compounded Austria-Hungary's internal stresses. It must be remembered that the Austrian armies that crushed the Italians at Caporetto were mostly composed of South Slavs. The weakening of the fighting spirit of these troops came towards the end of the war under the impact of the propaganda of the Yugoslav Committee, that urged them to abandon their loyalty to the Habsburgs who had repeatedly betrayed the national aspirations of the Croats, Serbs and Slovenes.

Valiani discusses at length the Congress of Rome in 1918, which brought together representatives of the Slavs and the Italian liberals. The Congress drew a joint program urging Italy to help the formation of a democratic Yugoslavia, which would be the friend and ally of a liberal Italy.

Valiani is aware that the Italian and nationalist circles took advantage of the friction between the Yugoslav Committee, representing mostly Croats from the Habsburg, and Royal Government of Serbia,

and that the Italians favored the Serbs against the Croats. He sides with the liberal views of Caetano Salvemini and Leonida Bisolatti, the sponsors of the Rome Congress and fervent supporter of Italo-Yugoslav understanding, and is critical of the official nationalistic policies of the Italian diplomacy, namely of Foreign Minister Sidney Sonnino, who obstinately opposed the establishment of Yugoslavia contrary to the conviction of Italian liberalism, inspired by the legacy of Mazzini. This section of Valiani's book throws new light on relations between Italy and the Yugoslavs, a subject which has not been objectively studied by Italian historians. Valiani's scholarship and objectivity stand in sharp contrast to the often emotional and confused presentations of Italo-Yugoslav relations and the Adriatic Question by some Italian ultranationalists.

Thus Valiani is helping to introduce into Italian historiography on the disintegration of the Habsburg monarchy a new style free of nationalistic prejudice. Each chapter of his book contains impressive biographical material that will be of particular interest to all students of this crucial period of history. The author's knowledge of many languages, including Croatian, Czech, Hungarian, Polish and German has given him direct access to the wealth of primary sources in those languages without which the downfall of the Dual Monarchy cannot be placed into proper perspective.

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G. Ostrogorski, *Srska oblast posle Dušanove smrti* (The Region of Serres after the Death of Dušan). Posebna izdanja Vizantološkog Instituta, knjiga 9. Belgrade 1965. Pp. XII+171.

Of the small states, which were formed after the dissolution of Stefan Dušan's Empire, the region of Serres in Eastern Macedonia holds a position of special importance. This small state tried hard to ward off the Turkish threat and its fall was fatal even for Byzantium itself. For the Balkanologist who wishes to examine the relations between Greeks and Serbs in the Byzantine provinces, there is no region more interesting than this.

Unfortunately, the history of this state had not been studied very thoroughly due to the fact that the sources at our disposal were meagre and on first sight did not hold out great promises. Narrative sour-