

centuries-old center of conflict, involving today, among others, the Arab-Israeli conflict over Palestine, which contributed to the world energy crisis especially after October 1973, and the Greco-Turkish difficulties over the problem of Cyprus and the Aegean islands, which not only threatened war between Greece and Turkey, but the southeastern flank of NATO, of which Greece and Turkey had been members since February 1952. The author contends that the United States has a higher density of interests in the Mediterranean than in any other area of the world with the exception of the Americas. These range from the American interest in Middle Eastern oil, to maintaining the Sixth Fleet along NATO's southern flank, finding a solution of the Cyprus problem and the Palestine conflict and preventing it from spreading. The interests of the USSR are equally obvious, since the Mediterranean is the path, through the Turkish Straits to the Black Sea.

In six short chapters the author deals with the current situation in the Mediterranean area, in brief detail. Chapter 3 treats of the United States presence in the Mediterranean, and notes that, all told, the United States maintains 60,000 men, 275 combat aircraft and 45 ships in the Mediterranean basin. Mr. Lewis describes in summary fashion the system of American facilities and bases in Portugal, Spain, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Cyprus and Morocco. The Sixth Fleet, the antecedents of which go back to the early Nineteenth Century, is the symbol and substance of the American presence in the Mediterranean. While the Soviet Mediterranean Fleet, the Fifth Escadra, also has roots going back at least to the Eighteenth Century, its more recent buildup dates 1967. It is a powerful modern naval force with some weapons not yet possessed by the Sixth Fleet. While the size of the Fifth Escadra varies from time to time, normally there are some 55 naval vessels, of which 20 to 25 are warships. The Fleet contains helicopter carriers, cruisers, destroyers, submarines, etc., and in July 1976 the new 40,000 ton aircraft carrier KIEV passed the Straits through the Mediterranean on its way north.

The book is replete with tables, both in the text and in an extensive appendix with details as to land, naval and airforces and weapons. The text of the Montreux Convention (1936) is also in the appendix. As noted above, this is a highly responsible and informative book which should be in the hands of all those concerned with the problems of the inland sea.

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Ramadan Marmullaku, *Albania and the Albanians*, Translated by Margot and Boško Milosavljević, Hamden, Archon Books, 1975, pp. 178.

This particular book is extremely fascinating, especially since the author is a Yugoslavian of Albanian extraction, writing about Albania. The work is also quite ambitious because it covers Albanian geography, history, culture, and politics. Marmullaku sketches in well-documented detail (there is an extensive bibliography) the

historical evolution of Albania, ranging from its origins as the ancient Illyrian Kingdom (p. 5) to its conquest and rule by the Porte for nearly 500 years, marked by periodic revolts, with emphasis on the exploits of the folk-hero Skenderbeg in resisting Ottoman rule (pp. 12-15). The author also describes the events leading up to Albanian independence in 1912, as well as the impact of the Balkan Wars and World War I on this small state's continuing struggle to preserve its national independence, with President Wilson's support (p. 33). A sympathetic account of Albania's brief experiment with democracy under Bishop Noli ending in the monarchy of King Zog with the reduction of Albania to an Italian client state is also clearly described.

The Italian invasion of Albania in 1939 set the stage for the rise to power of the Albanian communist movement during World War II, with Enver Hoxha emerging as its leader in 1941, with the aid of the Yugoslavian Partisans (p. 45). From 1944-48, Albania became a client state of Yugoslavia, since Tito wished to incorporate Albania, through such measures as a customs union and the merging of the Albanian and Yugoslavian armies. It is at this point, perhaps understandably, that the author is weakest, in minimizing Yugoslavian attempts to absorb Albania, and in virtually ignoring the vituperative Albanian reaction to such efforts.

There is also very little discussion of the activities of the pro-Yugoslavian Albanian leader Koçe Xoxe (p. 72) to overthrow Enver Hoxha. However, in 1948, the historic schism between Yugoslavia and the U.S.S.R. took place, with Moscow replacing Yugoslavia as Albania's «protector». The Soviet Union, in turn, relegated Albania to the position of a supplier of raw materials. The death of Stalin in 1953 and efforts by Khrushchev to improve relations with Yugoslavia stirred old Albanian fears. The author points out that Albanian-Soviet relations reached the breaking point with an abortive Soviet attempt to unseat Hoxha. Again, given the unique Yugoslavian perspective of the author, the role of Yugoslavia in the unsuccessful coup receives little attention: The Albanians then discovered a new ally in the Chinese, who also disagreed with the «revisionism» and «social-imperialism» of Stalin's successors. In the 1960s, Albania became China's bridgehead in Eastern Europe. But Marmullaku underscores the fact that the Sino-Albanian entente has not been without stress. A major crisis revolves around the U.S.-Chinese rapprochement in 1971, which Albania opposed. As the author writes, «... while in those areas where their interests differ, each state acts according to its own lights», (p. 129). Moreover, the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 helped to contribute to a new thaw in relations between Albania and Yugoslavia. This thaw has been aided by the improvement in the treatment of Albanians in Kosovo. The author devotes an entire chapter (Chapter Ten) to the Albanians in Kosovo and their improved status in Socialist as opposed to Bourgeois Yugoslavia, especially after the purging of Aleksandar Ranković (p. 149).

However, in spite of the optimistic picture painted by Marmullaku (pp. 145-149) the flames of Albanian irredentism still burn in Kosovo, as pointed out by Robert R. King in *Minorities Under Communism* and as reported in *The New York Times*, April 26, 1976.

The possibility of a Sino-Soviet rapprochement, and/or Soviet intervention in a Yugoslavian succession crisis, has resulted in some Albanian emergence from its isolation and increased contacts with the West. But, Albania was not present at a 1976 Balkan Conference attended by Bulgaria, Greece, Romania, Turkey, and Yugoslavia. Finally, as the author indicates, the domestic political situation in Albania is still

fluid, marked by a Stalinist bureaucracy (pp. 109-110) which could learn from Yugoslavian socialist democracy.

Marmullaku, who describes Enver Hoxha as possessing «an oriental cunning and political shrewdness» (p. 67) is prescient, since a new series of Albanian purges were reported in 1976. Moreover, in 1967, Albania replaced its 1946 Constitution and underwent the transformation into a Socialist People's Republic.

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Mihail Caratașu, *Documentele Văcăreștilor*, [Documents des Vacaresco], București, Muzeul județean de istorie Dimbovița, 1975, pp. 353. + 14 facs.

C'est une sélection de 115 documents inédits, extraits du fonds documentaire de cette illustre famille que nous présente l'auteur de ce volume, dont 75 sont écrits en grec, 35 en roumain et 2 en allemand, tous couvrant la période comprise entre le 10 juillet 1775 et le 31 mars 1853. Une image complète de ce fonds —appartenant à la Bibliothèque de l'Académie R.S.R.— nous est pourtant offerte aussi par les résumés que M. Caratașu donne pour l'ensemble des 234 documents.

Ayant trait, pour la plupart, au partage et à la gestion de l'héritage de Ienăchiță Văcărescu, ces documents intéressent en premier lieu l'histoire économique et juridique de la Valachie. Mais d'autres aspects s'en détachent également, concernant par l'exemple les événements de 1821 (dispositions administratives, édits princiers de cette époque etc.) ou l'histoire littéraire, lorsqu'il s'agit de précieux renseignements sur le poète Ienăchiță Văcărescu, sur les lectures de son fils Nicolas et surtout sur l'intéressant catalogue manuscrit, rédigé en grec, de ses livres. Nous nous arrêterons à ce dernier, pour en signaler le contenu, en constatant la présence des classiques, des textes patrologiques et des historiens (classiques ou byzantins), ainsi que des textes ecclésiastiques et philologiques. Parmi les 70 titres de ce catalogue (totalisant 170 volumes), retenons la version donnée par G. Roussiades à l'Iliade et à l'Odyssée (1817), les éditions de Thucydide dues à Néophyte Doucas (1805-1806), une édition bilingue, grecque-latine de la Géographie de Strabon, la Logique de Corydalée (Venise, 1725), le grand Lexicon de Varinus, qu'avait financé Constantin Brîncoveanu (Venise, 1712), la grammaire de la langue italienne de Toma Dimitriou de Siatista (Vienne, 1810) et la grammaire française du prince Caragea (Vienne, 1808).

La présence —parmi ces documents— d'une annonce de la traduction roumaine du Théâtre Politique, nous a semblé bien intéressante, puisqu'elle en vante les mérites et l'actualité, en 1823, en détaillant les bienfaits éthiques de sa lecture. Un document du 10 oct. 1818, signé par les membres du Conseil princier Valaque, revient sur une décision concernant l'exil de Benjamin de Lesbos au sud du Danube, en lui indiquant de se rendre en Moldavie.

Pour leur intérêt historique et culturel, mentionnons aussi les deux fragments extraits de l'œuvre de Dion Cassius (L'Histoire romaine), concernant la conquête