

Sorbonne. Its purpose is to assemble in a single volume accounts of travellers and scholars who visited areas of Southeast Europe, during the 19th and 18th centuries, in order to prevent these sources from being forgotten. While most essays were written originally in French, some have been translated from the German or English.

The areas under consideration were then parts of the Turkish empire. Perhaps this is what the editor means when he states that «the region constitutes a cultural unit, but within it each population must be studied as part of an entity». Although essentially correct, such a statement is much too vague for anthropology. Nevertheless, some of the papers presented here do offer useful glimpses into the daily life of these rural areas. Part I, on the Gypsies (using their own name: Aromounes) outlines their migrations, Part II deals with the customs, history and politics found in Montenegro (Crnagora). Part III is somewhat more topical and deals with the social organization of the Southern Slavs, particularly the Serbs and Croats. Anthropologists will appreciate in particular the contribution by Emile Lavelle on the *zadruga*, the patriarchal extended family (pp. 229-237). Even more topical is Part IV, on Women and Marriage among Turks and Greeks, showing the contrast in women's roles between these ethnic groups and discussing such matters as divorce and abortion. There is also some material on the regions of Albania and Macedonia.

This volume certainly represents a praiseworthy undertaking and will be useful to future researchers. However, the quality of the selections is uneven and there is no attempt to present them critically. Thus, each paper has to be evaluated separately and on its own merits. Moreover, while the editor may have rescued some of them from oblivion, for which he should be thanked, one would have expected that social science text from the Sorbonne would offer some central hypotheses which would render it more useful for comparative purposes.

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Monica and Robert Beckinsale, *Southern Europe: The Mediterranean and Alpine Lands*, London, University of London Press, 1975, pp. X+334.

The Beckinsales, senior geographers from Oxford, have travelled and traversed Mediterranean and Alpine Europe frequently for well over thirty years. During that time, they have there witnessed much change and derived a finally honed appreciation of these lands and peoples as they were and now are. From that experience is born a book which is at once instructive and enjoyable. Evidences of sustained personal investigation abound and infuse the work with vigorous authenticity. Detailed enumeration of a variety of physical environments, replete with local nuance, couple well with judiciously selected studies in the sequence of human occupation. Consequently the book holds considerable interest for social scientists, historians and economists as well as for geographers and travellers generally.

After critical examination and reflection the authors adopt the popular regional sub-divisions of J. F. Unstead (1876-1965), a British geographer well known to them. But they depart radically from tradition in «giving the themes a much stronger political, economic and human basis» —themes which are treated skillfully with a statistical support that is adequate without being oppressive. The whole effect is one of a delicately wrought, and intimately detailed, regional geography. *Sorties* of interest little written elsewhere include desalination, pipeline transport, natural gas fields, collectivization, parcel consolidation and urban expansion and strength. These are facets of a change which has affected southern Europe since the Second World War, and which is yet progressively transforming the culture-scape.

The «contents» include General Pattern (Part 1), Western Peninsular and Alpine Lands (Part 2), and The Balkan Peninsula (Part 3). The ten chapters of Part 1 include authoritative treatments of geology, relief, the Mediterranean Sea and fishing, climate, hydrology, vegetation and soil, land use, settlement, and international and economic patterns. The nine chapters of Part 2 constitute geographical essays, with historical introductions, on Spain, Portugal Southern France, Switzerland and Liechtenstein Italy, and the Islands of the Western Mediterranean. The four chapters of Part 3, also with interesting historical summaries, relate to the Balkans, Yugoslavia, Albania and Greece.

The appendices include an excellent bibliography. A carefully compiled and well-executed one hundred and seven maps and diagrams, and thirty-eight thoughtfully selected plates, illustrate a handsomely produced *Southern Europe...* probably the most comprehensive book of its kind available in the English language.

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