

provide valuable depth into certain elements of the Ottoman Empire. The present work, however, widens our focus to give a much broader comprehension. We see a traditional Muslim Empire conquering, absorbing, defending, and finally losing an important portion of southeastern Europe. What may formerly have appeared as a political system lacking in the capacity for sustained development is in fact a classic example of the imperial cycle. We may find astonishment that the reformers, seeking traditional answers to their contemporary questions, avoided disaster for so long.

Colorado State University
Fort Collins, Colorado

WILLIAM J. GRISWOLD

Milija M. Lašić-Vasojević, *Enemies On All Sides: The Fall of Yugoslavia*, Washington, D.C., North American International, 1976, pp. 286.

Milija Lašić offers the reader a glimpse into his own life as a Serbian high school teacher, soldier, war prisoner and displaced person during the war years and up to 1951. His personal, highly moving account tells of his individual decision to join the Yugoslav army of King Petar II under the command of General Draza Mihailovic at the onset of the war and the resulting consequences of that decision—a loss of family, friends and country.

Unlike other participants of the second world war for whom the decisions, to fight and on which side, were made by their respective governments, Milija Lašić was confronted with several choices and each choice brought with it a different outcome. Civil war waged in Yugoslavia within the context of the world war. Partisans, chetniks and Croatian *utasi* fought each other as Germans, Italians (although the Italians are not seen in the role of a typical occupier) and Albanians fought Yugoslavs—truly there were “enemies on all sides”. This is the story of one man’s survival against these “enemies” and others—execution, frost, exhaustion, hunger and typhus. The reader walks with Lašić and his local-defense unit through the mountains and towns of Yugoslavia. In these movements the map supplement provided in the appendix would have better served the reader if it had been included along with other detailed maps within the text. For anyone unfamiliar with the area it is difficult to follow the military movements without the assistance of a map to help locate the towns.

Lašić and others like himself fought bravely; and yet tragically, he and they were treated as enemies by their own countrymen and by the Allies. Describing the events of mid-1945 he has written: “Several months earlier all countries in Europe were enjoying the return of their sons from captivity, while we Serbians were not able to go anywhere. Fascism and Nazism had destroyed our country; the Allies had handed us over to Communists whose getting into power in Yugoslavia they had greatly helped from 1943 through 1945. This injustice was killing us”.

Milija Lašić’s story is a tragedy—one of many. It raises many questions, few of which can be answered. More inquiries of this type by all sides are needed to provide an understanding, if not an explanation, of this tragic episode in Yugoslav history.

Kingsborough Community College

FRANCES KRALJIC

Carole Rogel, *The Slovenes & Yugoslavism 1890-1914*, New York, Columbia University Press, 1977, pp. vii + 167.

This small, but quite expensive study, is concerned with the pre-World War I develop-

ment of "Yugoslavism" among the Slovenes (a Southern Slav people numbering 1.8 million and inhabiting the northern-most Republic of Yugoslavia), beginning with a brief review of its 19th century roots and giving more detailed attention to Yugoslavism in the period 1890-1914. It shows how each political party during those years developed an attitude toward both cultural and political Yugoslavism; party programs and solutions offered by non-politicians, generally intellectuals, are discussed, and effects of Austrian policy regarding Southern Slavs and of events in the Balkans are considered. The small size of the Slovene nation led its would-be national leaders to seek common effort with other peoples, while applying Pan-Slavism or Austroslavism. In the last two decades before World War I, nearly all leaders focused on Southern Slav unity (which Rogel classifies as "Yugoslavism"), although neither Croats nor Serbs were eager to risk their own advantages for the sake of Slovenes. Given these limitations, Slovenes could not be demanding in their nationalism. While urging cooperation with other peoples, particularly South Slavic ones, some stressed Illyrism, or the cultural and linguistic unification of South Slavs as a necessary prerequisite to Yugoslav political cooperation. Others urged political reform in Austria in order that Slovene and Yugoslav interests could be more equitably represented. However, all three political patries remained loyal to Austria, and only a handful advocated separation from the Empire, but only after 1912.

Carefully documented, this work is quite valuable. It throws a lot of light on the little known nation in the Balkans. Especially interesting are the small sections the influence that Masaryk exerted in Slovene intellectual life = pp. 53-54, 71-72, 74, 83, and *passim*.

City University of New York

JOSEPH S. ROUCEK

Jan Myrdal - Gun Kessle, *Albania Defiant*, Translated by Paul Britten Austin, New York and London, Monthly Review Press, 1976, pp. 185.

Jan Myrdal and his wife Gun Kessle are best known for their studies of modern China, especially their early and excellent *Report from a Chinese Village*. Unfortunately their later books showed an apparently uncritical acceptance of the Peking determined "mass line" and policies and individuals earlier seen as paragons of socialist virtue were now discovered to have been running dogs of revisionism. Myrdal and Kessle have brought their enthusiasm to the Balkans and present us with *Albania Defiant*. The authors dwell in a simplistic world of virtue (progressive, socialist) and sin (feudal, capitalist) and with a moralism common to all true believers, virtue, like virginity, is held to be a condition that once lost can never be regained. Naturally the only governments deserving the accolade "virtuous" are those of China and Albania and perhaps one or two emerging nations. One can also envy the authors' certainty; for knowing in advance what must be found, they do indeed find it. Of course historical fact must be ignored or distorted, but what matter if a higher truth be served? In fewer than two hundred pages we are treated to a fantasy history of Albania and it is no surprise to find the Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact lauded as a clever move by Stalin, beneficial to the Soviet Union and, in some strange way, to the Balkan peoples. With no bibliography or footnotes the reader is asked to accept all this at face value, encouraged in belief by occasional quotations from Enver Hoxha. It is comforting to learn that bread is now baked collectively in Albanian villages but as each family still produces its own plum brandy some bourgeois ideas may remain in the hills beyond Tirana. However, when we are told that Albania has more students per ten-thousand inhabitants "than Great Britain, Germany, Italy and Switzerland have" (p. 177), I think we can rightly demand some documentation or at least