

Andrei Oțetea, Ed., *The History of the Romanian People*, Boston, Mass., Twayne Publishers, Inc., 1974, pp. 637, \$ 15.00.

This is the first volume in the National Histories Series, edited by Professor Sherman D. Spector (of the Russell Sage College, well known to us as the author of Spector-Rene Ristelhueber, *A History of the Balkan Peoples*, New York, Twayne, 1971), whose intent is «to present the historical evolution of a nation as that nation's historians see it. In this way, indigenous historians can present contemporary interpretations of their national history, and American readers may gain new perspectives and insights not generally available in the West».

The original work —*Istoria Poporului Român*—was prepared for a Romanian audience, and «its success has led to its appearance in an English-language translation».

Prepared by 14 Romanian authorities, its 23 chapters, divided into 4 parts (Ancient History, Medieval History, Modern History and Contemporary History), are the best available presentation of the «revised» Romanian history from the contemporary Marxian (socialist) point of view. There are no footnote references, and the bibliography (pp. 618-623) refers nearly entirely to Romanian studies. Quite interesting and valuable are 11 color and 144 black and white illustrations.

Spector recommends this history «to those dispassionate and objective American readers who wish to acquire an appreciation of the struggles Romanians have endured since they were swept up into the whirlwind of international politics». We heartily agree with his recommendation, although the presentation is not «dispassionate and objective», being a frankly ideological version of the present regime's views of the «forms of social and national struggle whose crowning glory was the insurrection of August 23, 1944, raised to a higher stage in our days by the Romanian Communist Party which serves the noblest causes of our people» (p. 617).

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Stefan Ionescu - Panait I. Panait, *Constantin Vodă Brîncoveanu, Viața-Domnia Epoca*, Editura Științifică, Bucharest 1969, pp. 464.

Since the turn of the century students of Rumanian history, especially native scholars, have written much about Constantine Brîncoveanu (1688-1714), voevode of Wallachia, and an outstanding figure in the history of the Danubian principalities. Many monographs and articles have appeared in historical journals and encyclopedias dealing with the part the Wallachian ruler has played in the tumultuous history of the region. Brîncoveanu had maintained intimate associations with the Greek intellectuals of the time and had done much to support and to protect them.

This book by S. Ionescu and P. Panait, containing new information and considerable material drawn from the archives (one of the good points of the work) completes the historiography dealing with Constantine Brîncoveanu*.

The opening chapter of the book with the title *Constantin Vodă Brîncoveanu în Istoriografia Română și străină*, pp. 5-28 (Constantine Voda Brîncoveanu in Rumanian and

* Chapters II, IV, V, VII, IX and X are the work of S. Ionescu, and the remaining four chapters of P. Panait.