

lectual and social polarizing" shows "the desire of the Yugoslav peoples for greater administrative and economic autonomy. Analysing this trend Djilas sums up the diverse aspirations of the Yugoslav peoples in this way: "For the Slovenes, their ambitions lie mainly in the development of the economy; for the Croats, in state rights; for the Macedonians, in intellectual opportunities; for the Serbs, in two extremes — the preservation of the united country more or less as it is, and the desire for complete secession."

All three books under review point out the critical situation in which Yugoslavia finds itself today for two principal reasons: 1) the disintegration of the Communist Party, and 2) the polarization of the various nationalities and their tendency to demand a greater autonomy and perhaps even complete state independence. Under these circumstances the entire destiny of Yugoslavia rests with one man, Tito, who at 77 still dominates the country and holds much of the power in his own hands.

Both Djilas and Popović seem to agree that the post-Tito period will expose Yugoslavia to sever stresses, which may place the very existence of the state in doubt. In such a crisis the leadership in finding new solutions will devolve on the party leadership in Belgrade and the centres of the Republics. It remains to be seen whether they will prove equal to the task, and will be able to rally once again the peoples of Yugoslavia whose divisions have grown deeper in recent years.

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Vera St. Erlich, *Family in Transition. A Study of 300 Yugoslav Villages*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1966. Pp. xv + 469. Maps, photos, appendices.

Jack C. Fisher, *Yugoslavia — A Multinational State: Regional Difference and Administrative Response*. San Francisco: Chandler Publishing Company, 1966. Pp. xxiii + 244. Tables, Figures, appendices.

David Tornquist, *Look East, Look West: The Socialist Adventure in Yugoslavia*. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1966. Pp. 310.

Since the war Yugoslavia has changed from a predominantly peasant state to one whose per capita industrial production exceeds that

of Italy, Japan and Argentina. This transformation has been marked by large-scale desertion of agriculture as an occupation and by migration from villages to towns. Bonds between town and countryside remain close in terms of both family relationships and economic ties. And despite rapid industrialization Yugoslavia is, in fact, one of the least urbanized nations in Europe in terms of percent of population in cities of 100,000 and over. The land of the South Slavs remains a country of diverse ethnic groups whose economic differences are directly traceable to differing historical traditions developed under the Austrian and Turkish Empires and, earlier, under Roman and Byzantine civilizations. None of this is news to Balkan specialists. Similarly, the three books under review, all of which appeared in 1966 and reinforce these theses, contain no surprises and few arresting new ideas. Each is, however, a substantial contribution to its respective aspect of Yugoslav affairs.

Originally published in Serbo-Croat as *Porodica u transformaciji* (Zagreb: Naprijed 1964), Vera Erlich's work is an extensive study of family structure in rural pre-war Yugoslavia. It covers all areas of the country except Slovenia and the Vojvodina, the author's intention having been to focus on the *zadruga*, the characteristic South Slav extended family organization no longer present in Slovenia. (Had she chosen to include Slovenia, however, she might have had a point of reference which would make comparisons with America unnecessary and which would have incidentally shed more light on diversity and the meaning of modern as opposed to traditional in the Yugoslav context. Examination of kinship in Slovenia might have suggested the possibility that the smaller household group per se is not peculiar to contemporary industrial society.) Nevertheless, by describing ways of life now past or passing the author provides us with a valuable base line from which to look at changes occurring in Yugoslav family and society in the post-war period.

This was an heroic undertaking. Working substantially alone, without institute, governmental or foundation support, Mrs. Erlich expanded in the eve of the second World War what was originally an inquiry into the status of Moslem women into a full-scale investigation of family life in Yugoslavia. This was accomplished by means of questionnaires sent to village school teachers and other functionaries such as rural priests and doctors. The author describes the enthusiasm with which they responded, reflecting their desire to make known what they

were left to the unfortunately low level of rural existence. *Family in Transition*, therefore, is not a dispassionate report by a foreign scholar; it very much reflects the author's attachments as a member of the society she is studying. Her analyses of the responses is supplemented throughout by materials drawn from folk poetry, novels, newspapers and her own experiences with Yugoslav refugees immediately after the war. A number of biographical accounts help enliven the text. By these means this volume differs from the standard English language sources on Yugoslav peasant life in the pre-war period. (i.e. Olive Lodge, *Peasant Life in Yugoslavia*; Mary Durham, *Some Tribal Origins, Laws and Customs of the Balkans*). Here the emphasis is solidly on social structure and the meaning and content of family relationships, a welcome change and one more in keeping with the approach of the sociologist and contemporary social anthropologist as opposed to that of the traditional ethnologist.

General cultural backgrounds are sketched in for the benefit of those unfamiliar with the Balkans, but one might wish that some specific ecological and economic data on the different regions were included in order to view zadruga organizational patterns and personal inter-relationships in their actual settings. For example, when comparing areas as diverse as Dalmatia, Montenegro and central Serbia it would be useful to know the extent to which occupations such as fishing, herding or mixed farming condition such family relationships as the authority of the father or the economic role of the mother and children. Other aspects which are insufficiently treated are the phenomenon of the family cycle as opposed to the absolute dissolution of the extended family and the important secondary role of kin ties outside the primary extended family group. Illuminating presentations are made, however, in terms of dyadic relationships such as father and son, mother and daughter-in law, brother and sister, boy and girl, husband and wife. The important factors of dowry and inheritance are considered extensively. Although some of the author's behavioristic labels such as unbridled individualism are debatable, still her quotations from the original teacher's reports provide material for investigating regional and ethnic typologies. (absent in impressionistic and culturally biased surveys such as Dinko Tomasić's *Personality and Culture in Eastern European Politics*, which is based on secondary sources).

Jack Fisher's *Yugoslavia — A Multinational State* is rich in data,

and because of its format, with an abundance of statistical and cartographical material complementing a fairly technical text, the non-specialist may be discouraged at times. This is unfortunate, since all material on urban affairs in the Balkans is to be welcomed, and with this volume Professor Fisher presents much information not easily available elsewhere. His theme — the significance of regionalism in the context of industrial growth — is a familiar one. At the same time, this book is unique in its specific and exclusive concern with urban populations and their problems. It is the first such study in English.

The opening chapters concentrate on the historical backgrounds of regional variations and on comparing the different urban areas according to selected socio-economic indicators. Later chapters consider local administration policies and the organization of the commune. In addition to the graphic materials in the text and several appendices, Fisher provides a comprehensive bibliography of sources on Yugoslav planning, politics and administration, most of these in Serbo-Croat.

Fisher's indicators of economic development point up the contrasts between the northern and southern parts of Yugoslavia. A more specific observation — of Yugoslav cities classified by 1961 occupational and demographic variables — is that, despite economic progress and growing urbanization, cities too tend to correspond to the historical regional distinctions. His survey of "housing quality," a composite index, also follows the classic dichotomy. In his analysis of patterns of local administration, including the workers' councils and the commune concept, the author notes:

The Yugoslavs attempted to restrict conflict and insure progress by inducing mass participation of the country's citizens in both the local administrative organs of their communities and the governing institutions of the enterprise in which they worked. The Yugoslav goal was to obtain integration through controlled differences or ordered local diversity under an indirect mechanism of federal supervision.... Though politically successful, at least in terms of administrative decentralization, it appears that local administrative autonomy was secured at the expense of economic efficiency.

To readers not directly concerned with urban planning, a section of general interest is that on Housing Policies and Conditions. It details the ways in which the major cities are divided into communes and discusses problems of policy coordination and planning, not the least of

which revolve around the varying financial resources available to these various commune units. (a problem in some ways similar to the central city/suburbia split in the United States). Information on studies carried out in Yugoslavia and the experimental approaches tried make interesting reading. Particularly notable is a Slovene study of time patterns in Ljubljana households, including observations of use of rooms within a given apartment in the course of routine daily occupancy.

A housing crisis continues as a major feature of Yugoslav urban life, although somewhat ameliorated in recent years. As of 1962 there were some 700,000 families in excess of the existing number of apartments, with most of the crowding in urban areas. The regional factor is manifest here as well, with predictably better housing conditions in Zagreb and Ljubljana.

The great wealth of information Fisher has compiled, some of it from unpublished host sources, speaks well for the cooperation he enjoyed with Yugoslav officials and for the increasing openness of Yugoslav society in general. Hopefully he may follow this study with a volume designed for a wider audience, presenting in more detail the historical evolution of specific Yugoslav cities (as he did in a journal article on the development of Zagreb), thereby providing more background for his discussion of regional development.

Fisher's overall treatment is sympathetic to the complexities of the problems faced by Yugoslav planners, but he ends his book on a questioning note:

It is clear that the new economic reforms will only increase regional differences in economic development. This is a fundamental fact that must be realized and accepted within the country. But by stimulating the North to advance unimpeded now, the entire country will profit tomorrow. The viability of the State depends upon the incorporation of this philosophy into practice; there has been little evidence to indicate its acceptance to this date.

An informal "insider's" view of life in Yugoslavia is made available by David Tornquist, an aspiring novelist who spent 1962-63 working for a Yugoslav publishing house in Belgrade. An American with an admittedly idealistic prejudice of a way of life he hoped to find in Socialist Yugoslavia, Tornquist tempers his views in the course of his period of residence and turns out to be a good observer of many aspects of the contemporary Yugoslav scene. *Look East, Look West*

presents the intimate side of Erlich's rural data and Fisher's urban statistics.

Of much interest are his observations of the manner of operation of the workers' councils. He comments on the way the council functioned in the enterprise in which he participated as an employee as well as in a large pharmaceutical firm near the capital, where he also became well acquainted with members of the managerial staff and with members of the Party and union organizations. He describes in personal terms how decision-making is carried out and helps the reader understand the various factors which influence the workers' councils he observed. In writing about recent drives for profit and efficiency in plant production he tells who was laid off, why and how it was done. While Professor Fisher's book formally presents the background of housing regulations along with statistics on multiple occupancy, Tornquist describes how he himself found housing, sharing part of a flat in the still common pattern of the *zajednicki stan*. He also describes how the tenants' association of every apartment building functions.

Living on his local salary and thus very much a participant-observer (in the best ethnographic field tradition), Tornquist recognizes the all-important institutions of *kombinacije* and *veze*—various sorts of arrangements and contacts involving kinship and friendship which operate within a network of mutual favors and obligations and which aid in finding an apartment, getting a job and all manner of lesser assistance. He details for his readers the vital commonplaces of everyday life, how shopping is done, food prepared, rooms heated. He observes how holidays are currently celebrated and ways in which traditional behavior patterns, in part derived from the rural heritage common to most people in the capital, are being accommodated to strong desires to be modern.

This picture of life in Belgrade is supplemented by accounts of visits to several large agricultural enterprises which are in the process of mechanizing both the means of production of foodstuffs and their pre-processing for distribution through the fairly new supermarket type outlets. The author is careful to point out that farm land remains in private hands. Although individual farmers have been deserting traditional agriculture for factory employment and life in town, Tornquist suggests that the future of private farming may well relate to the success with which the peasant is able to make the transition from generalized subsistence farming to the growing of speciality crops.

Also included is an account of a trip to the Coast, en route to which we are introduced to a somewhat bohemian although ideologically committed painter in the provincial society of Mostar, a description all the more interesting since most Yugoslav intellectuals and artists tend to seek their careers in the major cities, shunning the idea of life in a small town.

These three books, despite certain individual shortcomings, are important additions to our knowledge of the changes occurring in Yugoslav life and enable us to make significant comparisons between political innovation and fundamental alterations in social patterns.

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Georg Veloudis, *Der Neugriechische Alexander*, Tradition in Bewahrung und Wandel (=Miscellanea Byzantina Monacensia 8) Institut für Byzantinistik und neugriechische Philologie der Universität München, 1968. Pp. XI + 308.

It is remarkable that the subject of the Alexander tradition in modern Greek literature and culture in general has for so long lacked the sort of detailed, comprehensive research which Dr. Veloudis has now applied to it. So the recent development of the Alexander legend, stemming as it does in a direct and unbroken line from the pseudo-Callisthenic versions, has at last been accorded the scholarly study which it deserves.

By way of introduction (pp. 1-10) the author conducts us on a 2000 year tour on manifestations of the Alexander legend, from the Hollywood film of 1955 back to its Hellenistic origins. He emphasises the almost universal dissemination of the theme — there are versions in nearly all languages which possess a literature worthy of the name — and its enormous popularity. The most important part of his work is his investigation of the modern Greek chapbooks of Alexander, the one in prose, familiarly known as the Φυλλάδα τοῦ Μεγαλέξαντρου, and the other in rhyming verse called for the sake of convenience the Rimada.

In chapter I (pp. 11-47) Dr. Veloudis considers the Phyllada, its manuscripts and numerous printed editions, its sources and its date.