

countries of Europe which has been favored by geology with significant natural endowment. Any return to economic realism will, among other things, manifest itself as an intensification of economic difficulties. But this is essentially the clear-cut emergence of a long-standing problem.

*American Policy Toward Communist Eastern Europe* is a clear, concise and careful statement of the problem. It will be especially useful to the audience for which it was written, the public-spirited and intelligent layman.

Wayne State University, Detroit

P. V. BURKS

H. Gordon Skilling, *Communism National and International: Eastern Europe After Stalin*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1964. Pp. IX+168.

Joseph Rothschild, *Communist Eastern Europe*. New York: Walker and Company, 1965. Pp. VI+168.

Irwin Isenberg, (Ed.), *Ferment in Eastern Europe*. New York: The H.W. Wilson Company, 1965. Pp. 216.

The rediscovery of Eastern Europe, as a result of recent developments, has been exploited by authors and publishers with varying degrees of success. Among the recent books dealing with one, another, or all countries and problems of the area over the last few years, Professor Skilling's deserves serious consideration. Published under the auspices of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs, *Communism National and International* is a collection of nine essays on polycentrism. All but the epilogue—on Rumania's "independent course"—had been published previously at various times since 1960. Under the circumstances the book was out of date at the time of publication and is interesting primarily to those critical of political prognostication. It is indeed remarkable that even as careful and thorough an analyst of East European problems as Professor Skilling proved to be wrong more often than right in his assessment of contemporary trends and developments. He was most perspicacious in his evaluation of the forces leading to the gradual desintegration of the Soviet bloc but quite mistaken in his appraisal of the course of individual countries. To a certain degree these shortcomings may be ascribed to the common professional disease of claiming expertise on Eastern Europe as such rather than on just one or two nations. Professor Skilling's most penetrating and accurate analysis is on Czechoslovak problems and, to a lesser extent, Rumanian; least satisfactory

is his chapter devoted to Hungarian and Yugoslav developments. It is therefore somewhat surprising that he allowed publication in their original form of this uneven and dated collection of essays. Specialists are familiar with Professor Skilling's work and derive little benefit from the reprinting of known contributions; laymen and students are presented with a picture of Eastern Europe which is no longer accurate. This is all the more regrettable as by merely revising his essays he could have produced an outstanding contribution to the qualitatively-meager literature on Eastern Europe.

In the absence of such revision the non-specialist is forced to rely on works like *Communist Eastern Europe* and *Ferment in Eastern Europe*, whose shortcomings are exemplary. Professor Rothschild's book reveals not only the weaknesses of the general practitioner but also the evils inherent in popularizing serious subjects. The first part of *Communist Eastern Europe* consists of ten brief chapters outlining the course of political developments since the end of World War I. Five of the chapters are concerned with events in individual countries, the rest with the area as a whole or specific problems. The second part, entitled "References" and prepared by Rudolf L. Tokes, provides statistical, biographic and other factual data which supplement the information in Rothschild's section.

Professor Rothschild's essays are astoundingly elementary and defy any meaningful criticism. Even when allowance is made for the fact that they are based in part "on a lecture delivered by the author in the television series 'Columbia Lectures in International Studies'," they are unworthy of publication by a scholar of Rothschild's reputation. Tokes' section is informative but almost as rudimentary as that which it supplements. Altogether, *Communist Eastern Europe* should be withdrawn from circulation even before exhaustion of the printed stock.

The deficiencies of *Ferment in Eastern Europe* are of a different order. The editor, Irwin Isenberg, has produced a compilation of many articles by experts and amateurs on a variety of topics related to Eastern Europe. The scope of the volume is similar to Rothschild's, ranging from an historical introduction to contemporary events. The quality of the selections used to illustrate the principal stages in the historic evolution of Eastern Europe in the twentieth century is generally mediocre. The intrinsic weakness of individual items is accentuated by editorial excising which frequently render them unintelligible. Inasmuch as the editor's introductions to the several subsections into which the book is divided are perfunctory, the reader must rely on his personal knowledge or intuition to place the contributions in some sort of context. The book therefore is of value only

as a reference work for those seeking unusual topics for conversation, for students anxious to include East European materials in term papers, and for bus, subway or train riders with special interest in international affairs.

Wayne State University, Detroit

STEPHEN FISCHER-GALATI

Konstantin Kristoforidhi, *Fjalor shqip-greqisht, Λεξικὸν ἀλβανο-ελληνικόν*, [Albanian-Greek Dictionary] Prague, 1961. Pp. 397.

The Albanian-Greek dictionary by K. Kristoforidhi (1827-1895), has been a landmark in Albanian lexicography since its publication in Athens in 1904 by the Greek government. Before it appeared, there was no comprehensive and scholarly dictionary of the Albanian language, and even today, when we possess the work of such scholars as G. Weigand, A. Leotti and S.E. Mann, Kristoforidhi's work retains its value, especially for the use of dialectical elements.

The author, a native of Elbasan, had taught Albanian to J.G. von Hahn and helped him compile an Albanian vocabulary, which subsequently appeared with a German translation in Hahn's *Albanesische Studien* (Jena, 1854). Kristoforidhi was inspired by von Hahn to devote himself to the systematic study of his native language, about which he wrote several works, including a grammar and the above-mentioned dictionary. Equipped with a wide and thorough knowledge of Albanian and its dialects, Kristoforidhi spent some years of assiduous research in compiling a comprehensive Albanian-Greek dictionary, which is still the best of its kind. It comprises 11,675 words and is distinguished by a great number of dialectical references and by highly accurate phonetic transcription of the Albanian words, which were originally written in a modified Greek alphabet.

The editor of the new edition, the Albanian philologist Aleksander Xhuvani, has transliterated all the entries of the dictionary into the standard Albanian alphabet and has arranged them in the new alphabetical order. Furthermore, he has corrected the typographical errors of the original edition, identified grammatically all the words and provided explanatory remarks when necessary. These modifications and additions are explained in the introduction, which also gives the history of Kristoforidhi's dictionary and emphasizes its value.

University of California, Berkeley

GEORGE C. SOULIS