

and folk poetry. Folk beliefs are distinguished into those which have eventually been incorporated into the Orthodox doctrine and those which have retained their Pagan character. Here the reader will find some of the examples which he has already come across in the first study but the fact that they now are given within their context makes them more comprehensive.

Folk poetry which is subsequently examined is characterized as "the most important expression of folk culture. It..... clearly reflects not only the total folk spirit... but also the entire long history of the nation." The subject of folk songs is, of course, very complicated and difficult to be treated in a few pages. The reader, however, is sufficiently oriented to the problem, mainly because of the comprehensive classification of the songs : Two main categories are distinguished : The narrative songs, and what he calls as "song proper." Many examples are given, not all of the same poetic value, however, and the English translation seems to me to express more faithfully the spirit of the songs than the translations given in the first study. In two occasions the translators have preferred to cite an older poetical translation. Kyriakides concludes with some historical remarks destined to prove that there is no gap in the poetical tradition of the Greek people. The text is accompanied by several plates in which figure articles of Modern Greek folk art belonging to the Folklore Museum of the University of Thessaloniki. One regrets the omission of a detailed table of contents and of an index.

In closing we want to congratulate Prof. Georges and A. A. Katanides for their initiative to present to the English-speaking public such an illuminating introduction to Modern Greek Folklore; although it is already more than twenty years old it has not lost its value.

Thessaloniki

ALEXIS POLITIS

Stephanos Zotos, *Greece : The Struggle for Freedom*. Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York, 1967. Pp. viii + 194.

Unlike the other Balkan states, Greece has experienced not only both world wars, but postscripts whose violence and destructiveness have far surpassed the original fighting. On 15 May 1949, hardly six

months after World War I had ended, the landing at Smyrna initiated three and a half years of battle with Turkey. On 30 March 1946, only nine months after World War II had ended in Europe, the Communist raid on Litokhoron signified the beginning of three and a half years of civil conflict. Thus, while the other European states were beginning to recuperate from destructive wars, Greece, occupying the very front line of a geographical and ideological frontier between antagonistic polities, faced further years of campaigning. In the perspective of history, we can see that the Greece of 1919 served, in effect, as the most active spearhead of a Western offensive against the disintegrating Ottoman-Moslem world. In 1946, by contrast, Greece played an essentially defensive role, as a Western outpost against the new, militant ideology from the north.

The two wars Greece faced during 1940-50 are the theme of this book. Mr. Zotos is an able journalist with strong French affinities and some diplomatic experience. He writes quite smoothly, interspersing reminiscences of his experiences during the German occupation of Athens and as an interpreter with the British forces in Greece in March and April 1941, with a more general chronological account of political and military events. He begins with the Italian invasion on 28 October 1940, and more or less concludes after the end of the second round of the civil war with the Varkiza agreement on 12 February 1945, though in a final twenty pages gives very brief and rather superficial coverage to the 1946-49 civil war.

This is not a scholarly book, and has little value for those seriously interested in Greek politics. Although the author is fairly free from bias, and shows real moderation in dealing both with the Communists and with the political maneuvering and infighting of the government-in-exile in 1943-44, he has consulted relatively few of the essential works on his subject, and drastically oversimplifies many vital issues. One is the complex negotiations in January-March 1941 between Great Britain and Greece over the formation of a combined front against the anticipated German attack. Zotos fails to recognize that the disposition of troops against the Germans was heavily influenced by the role Yugoslavia might play. If Belgrade remained neutral or joined the Axis, the British argued for creating a strong defensive line by concentrating all available troops on the Aliakmon river, west of Thessaloniki, though this necessitated giving up Thrace and most of Macedonia. If, however, Yugoslavia joined Britain and Greece, Thessaloniki would

be strongly defended as the only port from which the Yugoslav army could easily be supplied. The Greek army opposed either alternative, feeling it was vital to defend as much of the national territory as possible. These differences were never really resolved, and led to friction at the general staff level, friction which Zotos reflects to some degree by subtly suggesting that the British lacked a sincere interest in the Greek people, that their commitment to defend Greece was not serious, being an adventure or gamble whose failure could easily be written off. This may or may not be true; but is it reasonable to expect the broad loyalties, compassion and sympathy which men ordinarily reserve for their families or perhaps their own nation to extend to another country, of whose language, culture and aspirations they may know little or nothing? Sentiment is not a vital or even desirable element in relations between states; it is unrealistic for Zotos to invoke it, however subtly, in what purports to be a sober historical study.

The treatment of other key events—most notably those leading up to the outbreak of fighting in Athens in December 1944—are no less incomplete and unanalytical. But it would be unfair and essentially irrelevant to dissect further a work intended for a general, not a scholarly audience. As such, it is fair and straightforward. Those seeking detailed data, careful analysis and acute insights into men and politics will turn elsewhere.

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LEONARD BUSHKOFF

Center for Slavic and East European Studies, *The Florida State University Slavic Papers*. Vol. I. Tallahassee : n.p. 1967. Pp. 111.

One of the newest of the American centers for the study of Eastern Europe is at Florida State University. This anthology by its faculty marks a collective debut on the scholarly scene, and is the first of a series which we hope will grow and prosper.

It is obvious that there are serious, perhaps insurmountable difficulties to creating a unified entity from a mass of disparate papers which lack any central theme, chronological focus, or common approach aside from a very general interest in Eastern Europe. This book rises no higher above this obstacle than most collections. Its nine papers include two