

Gamarnikow views economic reforms, particularly in Czechoslovakia and Hungary, as an integral component of increased freedom of individual choice. This the Soviet Union is not willing to grant because of the repercussions that such freedom of choice would have within the Russian environment itself.

The grim specter of events in Czechoslovakia hangs grimly over a book written in early 1968. Gamarnikow quotes from Liberman, the foremost proponent of economic reform in the Soviet Union, as saying that his ideas "are being opposed with fixed bayonets by some people interested in their jobs." The Czechoslovakian events suggest that the Soviet Union is willing to oppose such reforms with fixed bayonets in other parts of Europe if it feels that they threaten the solidarity and the control that the Communist party has over events in each socialist country.

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Stephanos Zotos, *The Greeks—The Dilemma of Past and Present*. New York: Funk & Wagnalls, 1969. Pp. 270.

At any given moment in its history a nation represents both a confirmation and a rejection of its past. While compelled by constantly changing times to undergo a never-ending transformation, it nevertheless retains powerful attitudinal characteristics that link it directly with its ancestors. A healthy nation is one that can keep pace with the demands of the present by allowing for change, without losing the stability which only long and respected traditions can provide. The nation's heritage must thus serve as the guide for dealing with the present, but must not obscure the view of the future.

This theme of the impact of the past upon the present is a powerful one and has inspired many in literature and history. It is particularly rewarding when applied to peoples with a long and richly endowed lineage, which has been the object of systematic study over many centuries.

In *The Greeks—The Dilemma of Past and Present* Stephanos Zotos has sought to develop this theme by revealing the profound and inescapable influence of antiquity upon the Greeks of today. He shows that

the Greek experience at the personal and national levels is a blending of concepts and attitudes inherited from ancient times and molded—not always successfully—to serve the world of the twentieth century. He suggests that mythological figures and symbols abound to this day. His qualifications for undertaking such a worthwhile task are respectable: he is himself a Greek who knows his country well, but who has lived abroad long enough to acquire critical detachment and avoid possible ethnocentric tendencies. His style is pleasantly casual and readable, requiring only short bursts of concentration.

This small volume is in fact a collection of vignettes on many diverse subjects ranging from Athos to xenomania, from Byron to Hades, from politics to sex, from heroes to healing, from cafés to the role of the Church. According to the sub-title, it is "A Portrait of the manners, morals, habits, qualities and defects of today's Hellenes." Indeed, in this kaleidoscopic view of the Greek world, little is omitted without at least an aside comment. The result is a lively image of a people who appear to be simultaneously the contemporaries of Socrates and Seferis.

Whether on the other hand the image presented is a true one is not easy to say. The size and nature of the book require that everything be reduced to sweeping generalizations, stated in the most categorical terms. Thus one reads that the Greeks are among the most optimistic people on earth, that every Greek is both a dreamer and a realist who has trouble discerning where reality begins and where the dream ends, that his attachment to dogma is almost always the product of an intense emotion and never the result of any calculation, that modern Spartans have retained a deep admiration for the armed forces, that "every Greek believes sincerely he is the one who can chart the entire world," and that his morals are the same as those of his ancestors. Obviously Zotos is fully aware of the oversimplification if not outright distortion that may result if such pronouncements are swallowed whole and he could, given the opportunity, offer the necessary qualification and moderating, elaboration. But the uninitiated reader cannot distinguish between romanticized past and caricatured present, between genuine insight and meaningless stereotype.

The Greeks contains much that a foreign visitor to that country will find entertaining and informative. It is, after all, to such a reader that the author addresses himself, and he tells a tall story. But if, as the publishers proclaim on the back flap, the book "is a must for travelers past and present," to herald it also as "a social history of a people,"

making "a major contribution to Hellenic studies" and offering "a penetrating examination of the age of Homer and Pericles" is to employ what any self-respecting Greek would immediately recognize as a hyperbole bordering on the hubristic!

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M. Kostrenčić, V. Gortan, Z. Herkov et alii, *Lexicon Latinitatis Medii Aevi Iugoslaviae*. Editio Instituti historica Academiae scientiarum et artium Slavorum meridionalium (Zagreb 1969). Fasciculus I.

Dans le cadre des ambitions internationales d'une recherche plus intensive du latin médiéval, les académies yougoslaves (de Beograd, de Zagreb et de Ljubljana), elles aussi, ont associé leurs efforts pour constituer un comité spécial (*Consilium Academicarum scientiarum et artium SFR Iugoslaviae*) qui s'est mis—il y a déjà quelques années—à une quête systématique du matériel, dans le dessein d'un grand dictionnaire du latin médiéval. Voilà le premier fruit de ces efforts sorti de l'imprimerie: Premier fascicule du dictionnaire avec 232 pages du grand format lexical, incluant les mots de *a* à *clericellus*. Le caractère général du vocabulaire latin permet donc d'espérer que le dictionnaire complet contiendra au moins six fascicules de cette même ampleur.

Pour le dictionnaire, on ne peut que regretter l'omission d'un avant-propos ou d'une introduction au moins provisoire—celle-là n'est envisagée, selon l'information d'une feuille insérée, que pour le dernier fascicule—permettant aux lecteurs de se faire une idée plus précise de la genèse du dictionnaire, de ses repères chronologiques et géographiques ainsi que des critères que les auteurs, ayant extrait, sélectionné et systématisé le matériel, se sont proposés de suivre. De la bibliographie, publiée en pages III–XII (*Scriptorum nomina et fontium inscriptiones*), on peut cependant conclure que le matériel extrait s'étend à peu près jusqu'à l'année 1500.

On peut admirer l'invisible acribie philologique non moins que la remarquable netteté graphique du dictionnaire. Les mots en sont expliqués par les synonymes et paraphrases latines ainsi que par les expressions correspondantes en croate. À côté des mots le lecteur pourra trouver une riche citation des lieux de provenance textuelle. Dans les