

on the problems and issues of the "socialist camp" in the late sixties and the turn of the seventies.

The express purpose of the volume is clearly stated in the preface: the book is intended to supplement a previous volume published in the same series *The Communist States at the Crossroads* by considering the events of the sixties, after 1964, and by emphasizing the twin themes of "aggregation of the Sino-Soviet conflict and the spread of nationalism in the communist world, especially in Eastern Europe." Projection of these trends into the 1970s is also made.

The several authors who have contributed to the volume have done a highly competent job. All of the 16 chapters, starting with Adam Bromke's old war horse "Polycentrism in Eastern Europe" and ending with Teresa Rakowska-Harmstone's "Patterns of Political Change" are clearly conceived and authoritatively presented. The chapters are essentially narrative; this is particularly true of those concerned with the problems of individual countries.

It would be futile to try to quibble over fine points of interpretation or possible omissions from available data. What may be questioned is the need for compilations such as the book under review. The time has come when more fundamental and sophisticated problems and issues concerning the "socialist camp" should be considered by experts in communist and international affairs in general. The updating of previous volumes on a country-by-country basis and on topics which have been popular and standard for the last twenty years appears to be an unnecessary intellectual effort even if the final product is as competent as that which Bromke and Rakowska-Harmstone have been able to put together.

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Dražisa N. Ristić, *Yugoslavia's Revolution of 1941*. University Park and London: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1966. Pp. 175.

There is always a question of the objectivity of the accounts given by the protagonists of political events, and this applies also to the account given by Ristić on the Yugoslav coup of March 27, 1941. The author, a Captain in the Yugoslav Air Force, was aide de camp to General Simović, one of the two major leaders of the coup.

Ristić's account is based not only on his own personal experience of the troubled Yugoslav politics on the eve of World War II, but also on his privileged access to his leader's personal papers. Yet in the process the author, unfortunately, fails to utilize other available documentary materials and accounts of this event.

The primary cause of the coup was the conspirators' resentment of Yugoslavia's collaboration with the Axis and their concern for the implications of such collaboration for Europe, the Balkans, and Yugoslavia's "honor." The signing of the Tripartite Pact by the Regency government triggered the officers' action, and is considered by the author as a crucial point for both Germany and Yugoslavia. For the former it may have marked the day World War II was lost, mostly because Yugoslavia's subsequent conquest by Germany contributed to Hitler's overconfidence in the Eastern front. For Yugoslavia, in contrast to the signers of the Pact, Ristić argues that although the coup did not lead to the establishment of the communist regime, it did make possible Tito's survival in 1948.

This book, undoubtedly, is of interest because of the account it presents of the events leading to Yugoslavia's accession to the Tripartite Pact and the mechanics of the coup against the Regency. To the reader interested also in Greek history, Ristić's book is of special interest in that it provides numerous references on Greece and her place on the war planning of the Axis.

Yet the selectivity of the sources utilized by Ristić, the vagueness of many of his conclusions, and his general treatment of internal Yugoslav politics both before and after the signing of the Pact, make this book something less than the most complete account of this crucial period in Yugoslavia's history.

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Norman E. Saul, *Russia and the Mediterranean 1797-1807*. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1970.

If modern European history can be delineated by the advent of the French Revolution, one sign of this epochal change was the sudden appearance of Russian naval power in the Mediterranean. Two Russian