

medieval culture and into the image of the past that Bulgarian elites are striving to communicate to their own people and to the world.

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ALBANIEN ZWISCHEN OST UND WEST. By *Otto Rudolf Liess*. Appendix by *Robert Schwanke*. Hannover: Herausgegeben von der niedersächsischen Landeszentrale für politische Bildung, 1968. 87 pp. Paper.

Mr. Liess's brief book, an attempt to sketch the history of Albania in some sixty pages, offers nothing new to the student of Albanian affairs. A pamphlet apparently intended for use in secondary schools and adult education courses, it is based on the secondary studies that were available in the field when it was written; its statistical and documentary supplement, edited by the noted Austrian Albanologist Dr. Robert Schwanke, is a useful compendium of vital statistics about the country, more up to date than those in Stavro Skendi's handbook, *Albania* (1956). Liess's book, published in 1968, was written without the benefit of the two recent important contributions to Albanian history and politics: Professor Skendi's major historical work, *The Albanian National Awakening, 1878-1912* (1967), and Nicholas Pano's *The People's Republic of Albania* (1968). Pano's study offers the most definitive brief history to date of the Albanian Communist Party, based on documents recently published in Tirana. Thus Liess's book is already out of date and cannot be recommended for reading or use.

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SÜDOSTEUROPA: BEFUND UND DEUTUNG. By *Otto R. Liess*. Vienna, Munich, and Basel: Wollzeilen Verlag, 1968. 399 pp. DM 29.

EAGLES IN COBWEBS: NATIONALISM AND COMMUNISM IN THE BALKANS. By *Paul Lendvai*. Garden City: Doubleday and Co., 1969. xii, 396 pp. \$6.95.

Written in symposium form and skillfully edited by the senior author and contributor, Otto R. Liess, *Südosteuropa* contributes the Austrian historical perspective to our current studies of East and Southeast Europe. The book is scholarly and serious; it offers an interesting "neighbor's view" of Southeastern Europe, defined here as also including Greece and Turkey. Its weakness lies in the attempt to compress discussions of too many countries into too few pages, with the result that little more is offered in the country-by-country chapters than superficial and kaleidoscopic impressions.

The introductory sections are primarily broad historic reviews of such topics as "Coexistence and Proximity in the Balkans," "Party and State in Southeast Europe" (with a valuable discussion of the many endemic forms of authoritarian-to-totalitarian forms of government, reminiscent of Gordon Skilling's analysis of "Totalitarianism in Transition" in his *The Governments of Communist East Europe*), "Planned Economy, Economic Change and Reform," and "Social Policies and Cultural Developments in the Danubian-Balkan Area." These are well-balanced