

AUS DER GESCHICHTE DER OSTMITTELEUROPAISCHEN BAUERNBEWEGUNG IM 16.-17. JAHRHUNDERT. Edited by *Gusztáv Heckenast*. Budapest: Akadémiai Kiadó, 1977. 535 pp. \$33.00.

The five hundredth anniversary of the birth of György Dózsa, leader of the peasant uprising of 1514 in Hungary, provided the material for this volume. Its fifty-three articles are grouped under subtitles of political, economic, social, and ideological history and historiography. There is no space here to evaluate every contribution; thus inevitable omissions by this reviewer must be forgiven.

The first section contains two especially noteworthy articles. In one of them, Lajos Demény relates the history of peasant movements in southern Europe to the existence of free peasant-warrior communities that stretched from Croatia to the Lower Don. He warns that popular movements in this area did not always represent attempts to change existing social conditions, and he stresses that national liberation struggles, often waged by these communities, may also have been fights against feudalism. But it is not clear whether one or the other aspect of these peasant movements was the dominant factor. In the other article, Gusztáv Heckenast reports that the business cycles of early capitalism had at least some effect on the 1514 peasant movement in Hungary. The crisis of 1512-13 produced high unemployment among the Hajdus, the traditional cattle drivers, and they were among the first to join Dózsa's army. In contrast, the mining towns were unaffected by the crisis; consequently, their population did not join the peasant rebellion.

In the section on ideology, Jenő Szűcs argues against the use of the term, "ideology," in relation to the revolt of 1514. What really existed, he maintains, was a set of notions, derived partly from Christian teachings on poverty (often spread by the Minorites), mixed with notions of social equality. There was also disappointment with the inaction of landlords in the face of the Turkish threat. The peasants even suspected that the landlords were in alliance with the Turks. When they revolted in 1514, they considered themselves fighting against both domestic and foreign "infidels."

Of the numerous other novel contributions one must mention those by Ferenc Szakály, Vera Bácskay, and János Buza. Szakály expands on the theme raised by Szűcs; Bácskay and Buza discuss the relations between peasant movements and the Turkish presence in the region. Ervin Pamlényi provides a masterful summary of the historiography of the subject, and Sándor Kovács describes the writings of humanist eyewitnesses. The summary of the conference by László Makkai stresses the most important lesson to be drawn from the meeting, namely, that peasant movements in East Central Europe were dichotomous in nature. Because peasants were small proprietors as well as workers, their movements seldom followed clear-cut aims.

Peasant studies are currently enjoying great popularity the world over. The publication of this volume adds considerably to our knowledge of sixteenth and seventeenth-century peasant movements, and not only in East Central Europe. The volume should, therefore, be warmly welcomed by all serious students in the field.

JOSEPH HELD
Rutgers University

BRÜCKEN NACH POLEN: DIE DEUTSCH-POLNISCHEN BEZIEHUNGEN UND DIE WELTMÄCHTE 1939-1973. By *Volkmar Kellermann*. Stuttgart: Verlag Bonn Aktuell, 1973. 227 pp. Paper.

Herr Kellermann relates and fully documents all the important events in German-Polish relations, beginning with the tragic story of Polish sufferings under the wartime German occupation (pp. 11-14) and ending with the year 1972. He rightly