

PRIMORSKI SLOVENCİ POD ITALIJANSKO ZASEDBO, 1918–1921. By Milica Kacin-Wohinz. *Zgodovina Slovencev, 1918–1945*, vol. 1. Maribor and Trst: "Obzorja" and Založništvo Tržaškega tiska, 1972. 468 pp. 96 Din.

Although many works have been written about the territory along the Italo-Yugoslav border and about its people, Kacin-Wohinz's scholarly book, *Primorski Slovenci pod italijansko zasedbo, 1918–1921* (*Slovenes of the Littoral Under the Italian Occupation, 1918–1921*), deserves special attention. Access to the rich source material of the Italian state archives in Rome gave the author the opportunity to shed new light on controversial issues and to clarify the old suppositions. Moreover, her book introduces a new series on the history of Slovenes for the period between the wars under the direction of the Institute for the History of the Labor Movement in Ljubljana.

Kacin-Wohinz deals with the period of the Italian occupation of the Slovene Littoral (the county of Gorica, Trieste, northern Istria, and parts of Carniola) from the dissolution of the Habsburg Empire until its annexation by Italy in 1921. She is mainly concerned with the aspirations and the activities of the people as expressed by their political parties which she groups into three distinctive blocs—the Italian bourgeois, the Slovene bourgeois, and the socialist. Needless to say, the Italian bourgeois parties greeted the occupation of the land and called for its annexation to Italy. The Slovene bourgeois parties protested against Italian occupation and demanded instead the annexation of the entire Slovene Littoral to the newly created South Slavic state. The Slovene and the Italian socialists, who had merged into one party in 1919, favored internationalizing the ethnically mixed area while ceding the rest of it to Italy and Yugoslavia according to the ethnic principle. Consequently, the Italian bourgeois parties and the occupational authorities regarded the Slovenes and the Socialists as being hostile to Italian national interests.

Therefore, when the rumor spread in 1920 of a Slovene Socialist alliance which was allegedly preparing riots against the Italian occupation, the Fascists struck first against the Slovenes, burning their cultural and political center (*narodni dom*) in Trieste, and two months later attacking the barricades of the striking workers. Kacin-Wohinz confirms the old assertions that the above rumors were fabricated by the Fascists in an attempt to achieve the reputation of being the defenders of Italian national interests and gain the support of the Italian bourgeoisie. In reality, a Slovene Socialist alliance was impossible because the Slovenes regarded their own Socialists as traitorous to national interests. On the other hand, the Socialists regarded the territorial question as subordinate to the Socialist proletarian revolution which was, according to them, just around the corner and which would also bring along a just territorial settlement.

The book is well written, and includes footnotes, a bibliography, and an index of personal names. It contains many photographs, maps, photocopies of important documents, and a lengthy summary in French.

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LA LIBERAZIONE DELLA ROMANIA DAL FASCISMO: XXX ANNIVERSARIO. Rome: Editori Riuniti, in collaborazione con l'Istituto di studi storici politici e sociali di Bucarest, 1976. 918 pp. Lire 15.000.

This thick volume contains thirty-one conference papers on the overthrow of the Antonescu government in 1944, with a documentary appendix occupying almost two-thirds of the volume. The papers discuss the preparation, execution, and consequences of the August 23 coup. The authors reassert the familiar official interpretations: the reversal of alliances is explained as the product not of a palace coup, but of a Commu-

nist-led national and popular insurrection; virtually all of the credit for the undertaking is given to the Communist Party of Rumania, which is presented as the leading factor in organizing the "anti-Fascist armed insurrection" and as the decisive force in carrying it out; the king and his advisers, the military commanders, and the leaders of the democratic political parties, when not entirely glossed over, are reduced to mere appendages of the CPR. These untenable theses are propounded without any reference to differing interpretations published in the West. Similarly, there is no discussion of the multiple and protracted diplomatic parleys conducted by both government and opposition with the Allies in preparation for a withdrawal from the Axis.

The appendix (334 items), much of which covers the period 1933–41, also raises problems of scholarship. The criteria for selection are not indicated. Most are previously printed items and only fragments are reprinted here. The editorial excisions deleteriously affect CPR documents and press materials, which form the largest group of items included. Systematically expunged have been the CPR's characterization of the country's political system from 1933 to 1940 as "fascist," its revisionist appeals to Rumania's "oppressed nationalities," diatribes against the Social Democratic leaders, and slogans advocating the establishment of soviets or of a Soviet Rumania. The interested reader may restore numerous cuts by collating these texts with those published (also incompletely) during the 1950s in the collection *Documente din istoria PCR*.

Unexpectedly, given the unifying theme of the volume (and also the affiliation of its Italian publishers), neither the contributors nor the editors make any attempt to discuss or define the concept of fascism, even though the term is applied to the Antonescu regime. However, from 1940 to 1944, the CPR (perhaps for reasons of international policy) carefully refrained from categorizing the Antonescu regime as fascist; only after August 23 was it so portrayed, as the material in the appendix reveals.

Published jointly by the Italian and Rumanian Communist parties, the volume concludes its analytical section on a prescriptive note concerning revolutionary strategy in the contemporary period, and stresses the necessity of a gradualist, stage-by-stage approach to the problem of capturing political power and the importance of forging broadly based political alliances during that process.

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IANUARI MAKGAKHAN: 1844–1878 G.: BIOGRAFIIA, DOKUMENTI I MATERIALI. By *Teodor Delchev Dimitrov*. Edited by *Tsonko Genov*. Sofia: Nauka i Izkustvo, 1977. 214 pp. 2.62 lv.

One of the great war correspondents of the nineteenth century, Januarius Aloysius MacGahan, died of typhus at the age of 34 in 1878, after the signing of the Treaty of San Stefano and before the Treaty of Berlin, both of which his work helped bring about. Born near New Lexington, Ohio of Irish immigrant parentage, his greatest claim to fame was his vivid reporting of the brutal Turkish repression of the Bulgarian uprising of May 1876, published in the London *Daily News* and widely republished and translated, in Russia as well as in the West. MacGahan's stories fueled the Gladstoned opposition to Disraeli's Turkophile and Russophobe policy and stirred up feelings against the Turks in Europe and Russia, which culminated in the Russo-Turkish War of 1877–78 and the liberation and eventual independence of most of Bulgaria.

Oddly, there has been little written about MacGahan by an American. The present work is divided into three parts: biography (65 pages), the April 1876 dispatches (92 pages) and diplomatic documents (32 pages). The volume contains forty-seven well-chosen illustrations but no bibliography and no references, except those