

1954) a whole section on the Slavs in Lithuania and their relations with Poland before the treaty of Krewo. And though the young American professor who knows so many languages cannot be blamed for lacking Hungarian, it is regrettable that he did not use Bálint Hóman's standard work, available in Italian, on the Neapolitan Anjous in Hungary, 1290-1403 (Rome, 1938), where the policies of Charles Robert and his son Louis are treated exhaustively.

Professor Knoll will agree that the relations of Casimir the Great with his nephew and designated successor Louis the Great were more important than those with any other neighbor, and in the eloquent last paragraph of his book he anticipates that "some early clouds during the reign of Louis of Hungary [in Poland] cast passing shadows" on the "dawning of Poland's golden age"—as the author calls the reign of Casimir. Let us add that fortunately the Anjou's youngest daughter Jadwiga, who in turn succeeded him as "king" of Poland, repaired his mistakes and revived the heritage of the last Piast, her granduncle. Her story would be a sequel to the one that the author has presented to us so brilliantly.

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DAS SOZIALISTISCHE PARLAMENT POLENS. By *Siegfried Lammich*.

Abhandlungen des Bundesinstituts für ostwissenschaftliche und internationale Studien, vol. 25. Cologne: Verlag Wissenschaft und Politik, 1971. 112 pp. DM 28.

This volume is almost entirely devoted to the description of the Polish parliament, the Sejm, in the period after 1957. It is a disappointing study, which unfortunately typifies the kind of research conducted today in many of the West European institutes interested in Soviet and East European affairs. It is purely descriptive, superficial, and concerned almost exclusively with the institutional and legal aspects of the Sejm. This is regrettable, since the Polish parliament, especially after 1957, has differed from similar bodies in Eastern Europe by not only including a fairly sizable representation of nonparty deputies but also by being relatively active in both the plenary sessions and the commissions. To be sure, the Sejm is still a far cry from the federal and republican assemblies in Yugoslavia, but it has been steadily gaining stature and influence in Poland, as evidenced by the growing publicity and exposure accorded to it by the mass media. This process is clearly part and parcel of the gradual liberalization of the Polish political life following Gomułka's ouster in December 1970.

The monograph was published in 1971 and therefore could not discuss the most recent events in Poland. However, the period before Gomułka's downfall was not totally sterile, and the Sejm did play a part in the first brief liberalization of the late 1950s. Some interesting lessons could have been learned from that experience, which was essentially repeated in the early 1970s, yet apparently it has escaped the author's attention. Based on the experience of the late 1950s and early 1970s one could argue that a Communist leadership bent on liberalization would find parliament a useful and convenient instrument to carry out its program, especially if the latter were to be given some additional authority and autonomy. Whether a legislative body would be ready and willing to assume the new role would depend on several factors: its composition, the "morale" of the deputies, and the strength of, and attachment to, parliamentary traditions.

A description of legal and institutional aspects of Communist parliaments,

without looking behind the constitutional façade at the political processes, is not very meaningful. In this particular case, the monograph offers a good deal of factual information derived from secondary Polish sources but little else. This may be valuable to those who want to find out something about the legal status of the Sejm; it is of little or no value to students of Polish and East European politics who are more concerned with what is going on below the surface.

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POLONIA AMERYKAŃSKA: SZKICE HISTORYCZNE I SOCJOLOGICZNE. By *Stefan Włoszczewski*. Warsaw: Ludowa Spółdzielnia Wydawnicza, 1971. 265 pp. 14 zł., paper.

TEXAS PIONEERS FROM POLAND: A STUDY IN THE ETHNIC HISTORY. By *Jacek Przygoda*. San Antonio: Polish American Center (2611 Mission Road), 1971. xi, 161 pp.

ŚLĄZACY W TEKSASIE: RELACJE O NAJSTARSZYCH OSADACH POLSKICH W AMERYCE. By *Andrzej Brożek*. Instytut śląski w Opolu. Warsaw: Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, 1972. 292 pp. 58 zł.

Dr. Włoszczewski's popular essays indicate Poland's growing interest in some ten million Americans of Polish descent which is parallel to an increased interest by American sociologists and politicians in "ethnics." Though lacking in scholarly apparatus (no index, no bibliography, incomplete footnotes) and slanted in its conclusions, the tediously repetitious book gives Polish readers lots of little-known information, particularly with regard to the organizational activities of the hyphenated clergy and of the Polish-American press in the formative years of the predominantly economic mass immigration between 1870 and 1920.

Using and often paraphrasing outdated Polish secondary sources by Haiman, Kruszką, Nagiel, Nesterowicz, Osada, Szalewski, and Wachtl, the author completely overlooks at least five scholarly monographs in English published during the last twenty years in the United States. For that reason his interpretation of the first century of Polish-American political relations is both incomplete and inaccurate. Włoszczewski's tendentious treatment of the last fifty years may only bring harm to efforts for a better understanding of the United States and its "Polonia" in present-day Poland. Typical of his bias are such false statements as "local government in America is always a servant of big capital" (p. 103n.), or "the twenty-year-long hue and cry against People's Poland reduced the prestige of the Polish American Congress to zero" (p. 196). The author would be surprised to find that the Ninth Convention of that central Polish-American organization recently held in Detroit was attended by a multitude of important candidates and was nationally covered by all media. Paradoxically, one of the most active branches of the Polish American Congress represents the Lone Star State, though according to Włoszczewski, "hardly a trace was left of Texas' Polonia as an organized group in ex-Polish settlements" (p. 57). Perhaps the most objective part of this otherwise inadequate presentation is the intelligent introduction by Mieczysław Fudali.

Two monographic studies of the Polish Texans, the shorter written in English by a Catholic priest, professor of economics at Loyola University, Los Angeles, another in Polish by an economic historian from a Higher School of Pedagogy in