

FÜNFZIG JAHRE UNGARISCHER KIRCHENGESCHICHTE, 1895–1945. By *Gabriel Adriányi*. *Studia Hungarica*, Schriften des Ungarischen Instituts München, 6. Mainz: v. Hase & Koehler Verlag, 1974. 186 pp. Map.

This book is a compilation of material from a series of lectures given at the University of Bonn during the summer semester of 1972. It does not claim to be, nor indeed is it, a systematic ecclesiastical history, because such a work would have required research in Hungarian archives. Gabriel Adriányi's sources consist of the most commonly known general works on the subject and several collections of printed documents. The book's *raison d'être* seems to be the presentation of twenty-five documents—all of which are concerned with church affairs—discovered by the author in the Politisches Archiv des Auswärtigen Amtes in Bonn. These documents demonstrate the treason of a historian who was a German spy; Nazi-German frustration with the Hungarian hierarchy in general and with the pro-Western, pro-Semitic, and anti-Nazi policies of the Hungarian primate, Jusztinián Cardinal Serédi; and the efforts of the Hungarian government and Roman Catholic clergy to offset German domination by means of their Italian orientation.

The remainder of the book deals with the Hungarian Roman Catholic church from 1895 to 1918, which the author terms the "late feudal-liberal" era, and the ecclesiastical policies of the Béla Kun regime. Separate sections cover the interwar years and the Second World War.

Although the book contains no new basic data and offers no new information (apart from the documents mentioned above), it is an interesting and sympathetic presentation of the Catholic view of the Roman church in Hungary during the first half of the twentieth century.

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THE BARANYA DISPUTE, 1918–1921: DIPLOMACY IN THE VORTEX OF IDEOLOGIES. By *Leslie Charles Tihany*. *East European Monographs*, 35. Boulder, Colo.: *East European Quarterly*, 1978. xii, 138 pp. \$11.00. Distributed by Columbia University Press, New York.

Following the 1918 armistice, Hungary's neighbors embarked on her dismemberment. Their most extreme designs—such as the Czechoslovak corridor, a Rumanian boundary along the Tisza River, and the Serbian annexation of the occupied county of Baranya—were thwarted by the Great Powers. Between 1919 and 1921, the Serbian administrators of Pecs (the county seat) attempted to use novel means to detach Baranya: during Kun's Soviet republic, they encouraged rightists, and later, during Horthy's "white terror," left separatists, to shape Baranya into a Serbian protectorate. Allied insistence on the observation of the terms of the Treaty of Trianon forced Serbia to return the county to Hungary in August 1921. The partisans of an "Eastern Saarland" in the form of the stillborn Pecs-Baranya republic were forced to flee with the withdrawing Yugoslav troops.

Dr. Tihany's brief essay (eighty-one pages with footnotes) is the first study in any language to deal exclusively with this fascinating episode in East European history. The short text makes adequate treatment of the complex subject difficult, however.

The author uses recently opened Quai d'Orsay material to document the conservative Allied position, as represented by the French. His reliance on selectively published sources from Kádár's Hungary, however, leads him to overestimate the importance of the Communists in Pecs politics. This, in turn, causes him to overemphasize the role of ideologies in the dispute.

This pioneering work in Hungarian local history ought to inspire some scholars to investigate thoroughly the history of the Baranya dispute. Archival and other primary as well as secondary sources, untapped by Dr. Tihany, will facilitate the quest.

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THE HUNGARIAN LABOR SERVICE SYSTEM, 1939–1945. By *Randolph L. Braham*. East European Monographs, 31. Boulder, Colo.: *East European Quarterly*, 1977. x, 159 pp. Illus. \$11.00. Distributed by Columbia University Press, New York.

This brief, well-documented, and thorough study by a professor of political science at City College, CUNY is the first detailed history of the auxiliary labor service Hungarian Jews were compelled to undertake during the Second World War. Hungary's treatment of Jews throughout the war was as contradictory as the entire participation of Hungary in World War II. The introduction, administration, and operation of the Jewish labor service bore these very marks of contradiction.

Hungary was the first country to emulate Hitler's Germany with the institution of anti-Jewish laws. The original purpose of legislation introduced between 1938 and 1941 was to remove the "unreliable" Jewish elements from fighting while compelling them to undertake incredibly hard physical labor—building trenches, digging in copper mines or building roads without equipment, in their own clothes, dying like flies from the cold, the lack of food, typhus, and dysentery. Without shelter, they were ridiculed, beaten, tortured, and killed by sadistic guards and front-line soldiers in both Hungarian and German uniforms. The author devotes most of his attention to the fate of the two most significant operations in which Jewish labor service was involved—in the Ukraine and those in Bor, Yugoslavia. In the first operation, out of fifty thousand labor servicemen only six to seven thousand survived. In the second, in the copper mines south of Belgrade, approximately six thousand men suffered perhaps one of the greatest ordeals of history. Even as the war was drawing to a close, the exhausted men were driven like animals towards the German borders where they were massacred along the road and forced to dig their own graves. Hungary's finest lyric poet, Miklos Radnoti, described sensitively his own and his fellow sufferers' impending death in handwritten lines of beautiful poetry found on his body in the mass graves that contained the bodies of these victims of the horror.

There are a few heroes in the book: they are the small number of Hungarians who protested, the decent and honest members of the Ministry of Defense, which in 1944 curiously and ironically became the protector of the safety of some Jews. Among officials of the Ministry of Defense, the author singles out the ministry's spokesman, General Vilmos Nagy, who resigned rather than allow the slaughter of the Jews. But then again, there were few heroes in those days in Hungary as far as the Jews were concerned, and this book, written by someone who experienced the suffering, is so understated and objective that the reader is allowed to draw his own conclusions.

The appendixes, including statements made by former labor service members, documents relating to administration, glossaries and abbreviations, add immeasurably to the fine and tragic account of man's inhumanity to man. The volume is worthy of being included in the East European Monographs series—ably edited by Stephen Fischer-Galati—and will be of value not only to the specialist of the period, but to the general reader interested in Eastern Europe as well.

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