

but also by the very powerful gentry. Vaněček fails to mention this. The fundamental articles of 1871 did not re-establish the general diet of Bohemian provinces. The future Communist leader Dr. Bohumír Šmeral especially promoted the opportunism of Czech social democrats in the last years of the monarchy. Finally, but significantly, the author overestimates the short intermezzo of the Slovak Communist Republic (June 16–July 1, 1919).

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GEOGRAPHY OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA. By *Jaromír Demek, Miroslav Střída*, et al. Sponsored by the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. Prague: Academia, 1971. 330 pp. \$15.00.

This book is the work of sixteen geographers and scientists associated with the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences. It is a unique book because "the Czechoslovak geographers themselves tackled the task [of] writing in English a brief modern manual on the geography of Czechoslovakia" (p. 9). However, the numerous descriptive data and facts it contains are already generally known or available in other sources.

A brief introduction (by K. Kuchař) describes in twelve pages the country's territory, history, and the development of cartography. The next six papers (151 pages) on "Physical Geography" discuss topography (J. Demek, E. Mazúr, O. Štelcl), climate (E. Quitt), hydrology (J. Piše, V. Vlček), soils (K. Tarábek), biogeography (J. Raušer), and conservation (J. Rubín). All of these essays are painstakingly accurate descriptions with appropriate maps. The second section (119 pages) on "Economic Geography" also covers six topics. The first, on the development of the economy (by M. Střída), is an introduction which provides a superficial Marxist interpretation of the country's economic development. The next five papers summarize the regional distribution of population (C. Votrúbec), industry (M. Střída), and agriculture (Z. Hoffmann). Also covered are the basic modes of transportation (O. Šlampa) and Czechoslovak internal and external tourist traffic (J. Hůrský).

Each paper is self-contained and each is cluttered with data and names, yet none of them offer any explanatory or interesting ideas. East European specialists who seek an understanding of the country's changeable social character will thus be disappointed. And for those whose interests have been stimulated by recently published materials on Czechoslovakia's stormy political history, the volume will provide little more than dull reading—static, complex, and incomprehensible. But perhaps it will be useful as a reference book. Professional geographers specializing in Eastern Europe also will be disillusioned. They will not be impressed by the information presented here, or by the book's rigid and naïve approach.

If this book was intended "for geographers abroad . . . even for all visitors from abroad" (p. 7), the authors have not achieved that purpose. Few geographers will read it, and potential visitors from abroad would prefer travel guides, which often contain more specific and relevant information, including explanatory notes about the country. In fairness, however, *Geography of Czechoslovakia* is as bad—or as good—as the other books which treat this subject from the traditional regional geography point of view. It offers several tables and graphs that furnish valuable data; and some of the maps are superior. Numerous black and white and color

photographs also enhance this publication. A brief bibliography follows each chapter. One hopes that this volume will be followed by a more sophisticated work on the subject.

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ZAČIATKY ČESKEJ A SLOVENSKEJ EMIGRÁCIE DO USA: ČESKÁ A SLOVENSÁ ROBOTNÍCKA EMIGRÁCIA V USA V OBDOBÍ I. INTERNACIONÁLY: ZBORNÍK STATÍ. Edited by *Josef Polišenský*. Bratislava: Vydavateľstvo Slovenskej akadémie vied, 1970. 335 + 14 pp. illus. Kčs. 30.

The significance of this work to the reviewer—a student of the American past—and to historians in general is not so much the quality of its scholarship as the fact that it appeared at all. For, as one of the contributors observes, few scholars on either side of the Atlantic have studied Czech and Slovak emigration to America. To meet this need the Slovak historian Miloš Gosiorovský conceived of this work at the 1960 international historical meeting in Stockholm, and the Czech scholar Josef Polišenský brought it to fruition. The result is a conscientious attempt to deal with a difficult topic—the meeting of two national cultures which in recent years have had few and strained formal relations.

The book consists of three sections: a foreword and seven contributed essays, a score of annotated immigrant letters, and a bibliography with a brief introduction. As in many edited books on unfamiliar subjects, the constituent parts of this one do not hang together well. The title concerning immigrant pioneers in general and the subtitle referring to early group radicalism are never integrated adequately, and no clear picture of the first decades of Czech and Slovak America emerges. Instead, the essays are doctrinaire Marxian and antibourgeois, and unduly neglect the vital religious and conservative nature of these masses.

The Western scholar can largely excuse such deficiencies when he recognizes the unstable political climate in contemporary Czechoslovakia, the rare (if any) contact with American historiography, and the simple novelty of the subject in East European academies. Thus the two noteworthy contributions are all the more outstanding. Geographer Jan Hanzlík's "Začiatky vyst'ahovalectva zo Slovenska do USA a jeho priebeh až do roku 1918, jeho príčiny a následky" attempts to view Slovak emigration totally—listing the exodus county-by-county. And the most refreshing essay by Ladislav Tajták, "K začiatkom Amerikánsko-Slovenských Novín," describes the unusual nationalizing efforts of the first Slovak American newspapermen through linguistic manipulation. Also, the concluding immigrant letters and the seventeen-page bibliography are of considerable value to American researchers interested in the pioneer era. The writers of the letters show an unusual sophistication for first arrivals.

With the growing recognition of cross-cultural and comparative history, these Czech and Slovak academicians have provided another tentative impetus to East European-American studies. They hope that Slavists and Americanists here will respond.

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