

Carpathian Federation, and printed by the Dai Nippon Printing Company in Hong Kong. A more truly international venture could hardly be imagined. A careful reading of some of the articles leads to the suspicion that Australian Carpathians are really Australo-Hungarians (pardon the pun) in disguise. The term "Carpathian Basin", rather than Hungary, is used regularly in the text, often with the basic assumption that the basin would serve as the focal point of the integration movement.

From an over-all perspective, the articles are uneven in quality and interest. The translation of the Ermacora article is undoubtedly correct, but a bit stilted. Typographical errors are an occasional minor annoyance.

While the book is intended to promote a political goal of sorts, most of the articles selected are neither political nor polemical in content. They have been drawn from a wide variety of academic disciplines. Graphs and charts provide statistical information on population factors, natural resources and trade. One need not be an academic specialist in order to profit from reading the work, although its primary appeal will be to the Central and East European devotee.

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*A Short History of Hungary.* By Zoltán Halász. Translated by Csaba Szabó. Budapest: Corvina Press, 1975. Distributed by Imported Publications Inc. of Chicago. 275 pp. Illustrations. \$10.00 cloth.

Tastefully turned out by Corvina, this historical primer presents and updates for English-language readers the interpretation of Hungary's past familiar to us from the work of the late, outstanding Marxist historian Erik Molnár. The translation is nearly flawless and idiomatic, though we hope that the rendering of the 1918 *Károlyi öszirózsás forradalom* as the "Michaelmas Daisy Revolution" will prove to be less risibility-inducing in Britain than in America.

Structurally the book is disproportionate. The first fourteen centuries of Hungarian prehistory and history ending in 1900 receive 174 pages; the ensuing seventy years, 87. More space is devoted to the 10th Hungarian Party Congress than to the Reformation, about the same as the author gives to the Rákóczi and Kossuth Wars of Independence each. The illustrations are excellent but there are no maps. The translator's practice of using Hungarian place names in discussing events taking place in territories detached from Hungary in 1918-1920 (Pozsony, Érsekújvár, Gyulafehérvár, Balázsfalva, Világos, Liptószent-

miklós, etc.) makes it impossible for the non-Hungarian reader to trace the narrative on modern maps published outside Hungary. Similarly, the use of a correct but unfamiliar German geographical nomenclature instead of place names familiar from English historical writing (for example, Höchstädt for Blenheim) fails to prompt instantaneous reaction in the lay reader's mind.

Methodologically the text, which otherwise reads well, lapses into weaknesses characteristic of dogmatic historiography. Hypothesis is presented as historical fact, as on p. 15: "The ordinary Magyar [of the early 10th century] had the choice of two alternatives: to join the armed bands or . . . to till the soil," etc. Historical fact incongruous with the justification of a synthesis is omitted, as on p. 243: "Ferenc Nagy, who was in Switzerland at the time . . . was summoned by the government to return home. . . Nagy refused and sent a letter of resignation instead." The non-captive reading public has the omitted facts available in Ferenc Nagy's *Struggle Behind the Iron Curtain*, Macmillan: New York, 1948, pp. 405-426 and in the open diplomatic archives of the West. The book ends with a presentation of the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat in Hungary (p. 247) as a curtainraiser to the end of the dialectical process in that country and so perforce of Hungarian history.

The 1975 publication of this little book in Budapest roughly coincided with the signing in Helsinki of the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The fact that it is being freely distributed in America by Imported Publications, Inc. of Chicago should be partial proof of U.S. compliance with those "third-basket" desiderata of the Final Act which call for reciprocity in the free movement of ideas and in access to printed information. We hope that the Hungarian counterpart of the American Imported Publications, Inc. will soon be, if it isn't already, as free of government control in importing and distributing information originating anywhere in the world as is the Chicago firm which has placed Zoltán Halász's book in our hands.

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*The Crises of France's East Central European Diplomacy, 1933-1938.*  
By Anthony T. Komjathy. Boulder: East European Quarterly, 1977.  
Distributed by Columbia University Press. 277 pp.

As a general rule scholars would agree that highly critical reviews should be kept as brief as possible, if indeed they should be written at all.