

2-1-1977

*Hoi Hellenes eis ten Potamoploian toy kato Doynabeos (Greeks in Riverboating on the Lower Danube)*, by Spyridonos G. Fokas and translated by Maria I. Markopouloy

Gerasimos Augustinos  
University of South Carolina - Columbia, [augustg@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:augustg@mailbox.sc.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/hist\\_facpub](https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/hist_facpub)



Part of the [History Commons](#)

---

**Publication Info**

Published in *American Historical Review*, Volume 82, Issue 1, 1977, pages 142-143.

<http://www.indiana.edu/~ahrweb/>

© 1977 by University of Chicago Press

This Book Review is brought to you by the History, Department of at Scholar Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of Scholar Commons. For more information, please contact [digres@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:digres@mailbox.sc.edu).

somewhat misleading. Coincidence of views might better describe their common interest in overseas expansion since nationalist ideologues often vehemently rejected the bourgeois values represented by these industrial interests. Finally, one should consider Vilfredo Pareto's analysis of government economic policy with caution. Pareto's passionate commitment to free trade led to a forty-year vendetta that warped his perspective.

Unfortunately there is no separate bibliography, but the footnotes in the back provide full bibliographic citations and much other useful information. One could wish for maps to illustrate Italian economic interests in Anatolia and the Balkans, but their absence is not critical. The book contains an excellent index.

Webster has given us a major work on a major subject. It should be read not only by specialists in modern Italian history but also by those interested in prewar diplomacy and Ottoman decline. Even those who question his conclusions will probably admit that the author has presented his case cogently and persuasively.

ARMAND PATRUCCO  
Rhode Island College

EUGEN STANESCU, editor. *Studii istorice sud-est europene*. Volume 1. Bucharest: Editura Academiei Republicii Socialiste România. 1974. Pp. 212. 19.50 L.

With these four essays, the Institute for the Study of Southeastern Europe at Bucharest inaugurates a series of occasional volumes containing the research of its members. The prospectus also indicates that these studies will be of a multidisciplinary character. In this instance the articles deal with Romanian history as recorded in Serbian chronicles of the fifteenth to seventeenth centuries, the Ottoman conquest of Dobruja, Russo-Serbian relations (1806-1812), and the culture and administration of the "Greek" company of Braşov. Exhaustively researched and footnoted, each article includes at least a cursory survey of the pertinent historiography. The first three seldom explore new material and display a rather leaden style in their detailed chronology of largely familiar events. Cornelia Papacostea-Danielopolu's essay on the "Greek" commercial community of Braşov, however, reflects a thorough investigation of the archives in Braşov and the Academy Library. Her analysis of the culture and structure of this group underlines the legal status it enjoyed within the monarchy. Furthermore, the multidisciplinary intent of the series is apparent not only in her discussion of the church and schools, but also in the development of Romanian motivations for participation and the impact of the traditional

Macedonian community exporting its merchants to Transylvania.

WILLIAM O. OLDSON  
Florida State University

SPYRIDONOS G. FOKAS. *Hoi Hellenes eis ten Potamoploian toy kato Doynabeos* [The Greeks in Riverboating on the Lower Danube.] Translated by MARIA I. MARKOPOULOU. (Institute for Balkan Studies, Serial number 144.) Thessaloniki: Institute for Balkan Studies. 1975. Pp. x, 478.

Long after the Ottoman Empire receded from the Balkan peninsula and independent nation-states emerged, its legacy of ethnically diverse communal life continued to survive in many areas. Spyridonos G. Fokas' study deals with one of those communal worlds, that of the Greeks who settled along the Danube in the Romanian principalities.

In Greece there has been a surge of interest recently regarding the life of the Greek diaspora throughout the Balkans and the Near East. The title, *The Greeks in Riverboating on the Lower Danube*, accurately reflects the contents, which deal with the rather narrow theme of Greek navigation and shipping along that waterway. This testifies to the author's long and personal acquaintance with his subject matter; his family lived in the Danubian port cities of Sulina and Brăila, and the author himself served as secretary to the board which administered the naval affairs of the Danube.

Ever restless and seeking new trading areas, the Greeks settled along the shores of the Black Sea centuries ago. Gradually they moved into the Danube delta following the course of the river into the interior. By the time the great empires arose in the area and competed for influence there, the Greek merchant communities were well established. Fokas with a touch of national pride chronicles the fate of the Greek shippers as they sought to counter the increasing political and economic pressures they faced during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. He makes abundantly clear that these people prospered most in the days before the First World War when a few great states regulated the commerce of the river. Once the eastern empires collapsed and aggressive nationalist states replaced them the days of economic freedom for foreign communities were doomed.

Fokas dwells upon political developments, especially international treaties, and technical problems, such as types of ships and methods of transport. Consequently, the life that the Greeks experienced emerges only in an oblique manner. Fully one-fourth of the work is made up of tables and appendixes while the text itself is awash with statistics, but they do little more than provide a compendium of shipping and a catalog of tonnage. A fine selection of photographs at the end provides

us with a glimpse into that once thriving social and economic world. Unfortunately the text does not turn that glimpse into a full vision.

GERASIMOS AUGUSTINOS  
University of South Carolina

STANLEY B. WINTERS and JOSEPH HELD, in collaboration with ISTVÁN DEÁK and ADAM WANDRUSZKA. *Intellectual and Social Developments in the Habsburg Empire from Maria Theresa to World War I*. (East European Monographs, number 11.) Boulder, Col.: East European Quarterly; distributed by Columbia University Press, New York. 1975. Pp. 304. \$14.00.

I enjoyed reviewing these valuable collectanea written by friends and colleagues on both sides of the Atlantic and dedicated to one of my own mentors. This *Festschrift* stays well under the circumscribed umbrella of "intellectual and social developments in the Habsburg Empire from Maria Theresa to World War I" and is a most welcome relief from purely political and economic studies. To my satisfaction many authors also picked up the theme of nationalism.

Considering the muster of Habsburg specialists, the scholarship is, unsurprisingly, impeccable. Each contribution is carefully handcrafted and meticulously documented. As regards *Heuristik*, *Kritik*, and *Auffassung*, the book is an unqualified success. In spite of the importance and interest of the several topics, however, the *Darstellung* is weak. With rare exceptions the paragraphs plod on in leaden style. (Will Americans and Germans ever learn to write with the style and readability of our British cousins?) All but two of these ten studies are purely expository, though Király and Freudenberg offer some welcome speculation.

Arranged chronologically, the studies cover the period 1780 to 1914 and range unevenly in length from a fifty-eight-page mini-monograph to an elaborate thirteen-page footnote. Hans Wagner offers for the first time in any language an analysis of Maria Theresa's pension payments and their suspension by her son. He argues that Joseph II's replacement of his mother's pensions with a legally regulated system of caring for state servants and the poor was an important step toward the creation of the modern welfare state. This chapter is followed by a re-examination by Béla Király of Napoleon's Hungarian Proclamation of 1809 in the light of new materials. The author tentatively concludes that many more Hungarians of all classes were pro-Napoleon than has been generally supposed. Wayne Vucinich's long study of the background and genesis of Croatian Illyrism is simply the best available in English and the outstanding chapter in this book. One of the essay's virtues is that it places the subject not only in the larger context of Habsburg and Hungarian political and

social realities, but, more important, in relation to contemporary European developments.

Other chapters also present original interpretations and new material. Herman Freudenberg provides a brief evaluation of several progressive Bohemian and Moravian aristocrats. He speculates convincingly that had they been more numerous, they might have been able to prevent the disintegration of the empire. In addition to presenting much new detail regarding the Romanian national movement during the mid-nineteenth century, Keith Hitchins shows the evolution and development of a workable national program, stressing the conflict between Romanian intellectuals and ecclesiastics. Adam Wandruszka contributes an interesting, extended note to the study of Austro-American relations built around a tragic love affair between an Austrian officer and an American widow. Stanley B. Winters next contributes a useful study of Slavic orientation in Czech political life and thought during the late nineteenth century, focusing mainly on Austro-Slavism, pan-Slavism, and Russophilism. Solomon Wank reinvestigates the old problem of change versus lack of change in Austria though a close study of three exchanges between Goluchowski, the "pessimistic" foreign minister, and Aehrenthal, the "optimistic" ambassador to Russia. Then, Erika Weinzierl provides a welcome and attractive examination of the relatively little-known national aspirations of the Italians left in the monarchy after 1859 and 1866, focusing on the question of an Italian university. The final chapter, by Joseph Held, centers on an early twentieth-century Hungarian journal, *Nyugat*, and its supporters who fought for artistic freedom and the autonomy of literature against political interference.

It is a sad commentary on the production of books today that even with photoreproduction this commendable book is so expensive that it will be purchased mainly by institutions. The editors, however, are to be congratulated for having conceived this book and for having guided it so well through publication.

STANLEY B. KIMBALL  
Southern Illinois University,  
Edwardsville

ZBYNĚK ZEMAN. *The Masaryks: The Making of Czechoslovakia*. New York: Barnes and Noble. 1976. Pp. 230. \$16.50.

This is a double biography of Thomas G. Masaryk (1850-1937), the first president of Czechoslovakia (1918-1935), and of his son Jan Masaryk (1886-1948), who served as Czechoslovak ambassador to Washington (1919-1922) and London (1925-1938), and as foreign minister in President