

FOREWORD

The present volume is one in a series which, when completed hopes to present a comprehensive survey of the many aspects of War and Society in East Central Europe during the past two centuries.

These volumes deal with the peoples whose homelands lie between the Germans to the west, the Russians to the east and north, and the Mediterranean and Adriatic seas to the south. They constitute a particular civilization, an integral part of Europe, yet substantially different from the West. Within the area there are intriguing variations in language, religion, and government; so, too, are there differences in concepts of national defense, of the characters of the armed forces, and of the ways of waging war. Study of this complex subject demands a multidisciplinary approach; there, we have involved scholars from several disciplines, from universities and other scholarly institutions of the USA, Canada, and Western Europe, as well as the East Central European socialist countries. The author of the present volume is a Czechoslovak citizen.

Our investigation focuses on a comparative survey of military behavior and organization in these various nations and ethnic groups to see what is peculiar to them, what has been socially and culturally determined, and what in their conduct of war was due to circumstances. Besides making a historical survey, we try to define different patterns of military behavior, including the decisionmaking processes, the attitudes and actions of diverse social classes, and the restraints or lack of them shown in war.

We endeavor to present considerable material on the effects of social, economic, political, and technological changes, and of changes in the sciences and in international and interethnic relations on the development of doctrines of national defense and practices of military organization, command, strategy, and tactics. We shall also present data on the social origins and mobility of the officer corps and the rank and file, on the differences between the officer corps of the various services, and above all, on the civil-military relationship and the origins of the East Central European brand of militarism. The studies will, we hope, result in a better

understanding of the societies, governments, and politics of East Central Europe, most of whose peoples are now members of the Warsaw Treaty Organization.

Our methodology takes into account that in the last three decades the study of war and national defense systems has moved away from narrow concern with battles, campaigns, and leaders and has come to concern itself with the evolution of the entire society. In fact, the interdependence of changes in society and changes in warfare, and the proposition that military institutions closely reflect the character of the society of which they are a part have come to be accepted by historians, political scientists, sociologists, philosophers, and other students of war and national defense. Recognition of this fact constitutes one of the keystones of our approach to the subject. The present volume concentrates on inter-ethnic relations, and the Czechoslovak government's policies toward the minorities as related to their concept of national defense.

Works in Western languages adequately cover the diplomatic, political, intellectual, social, and economic histories of these peoples and this area. In contrast, few substantial studies of their national defense systems have yet appeared in Western languages. Similarly, though some substantial, comprehensive accounts of the nonmilitary aspects of the history of the whole region have been published in the West, nothing has yet appeared in any Western language about the national defense systems of the area as a whole. Nor is there any study of the mutual effects of the concepts and practices of national defense in East Central Europe. Thus, this comprehensive study on *War and Society in East Central Europe* is a pioneering work.

The present volume investigates the plight of the Hungarian minorities in Czechoslovakia. Czechoslovakia, as a multi-national state, was established as one of the consequences of the First World War. The Czechoslovak effort during and after World War II to transform their state into a Slavic nation state negatively affected the fate of the minorities of Czechoslovakia. The study of Dr. Kálmán Janics thus exposes a problem which is deeply rooted in the effects of both world wars, thus the book is a welcome addition to our series.