

Foreword

THE present volume is a collection of articles, essays, documents and statistical data selected from the first six issues (1963-1969) of *Studies for a New Central Europe*, a review devoted to the reorganizational problems and tasks of that area. Besides these, two heretofore unpublished papers have been added to the collection. Namely, Alexander Gallus' "Cultural Pluralism and the Study of Complex Societies in Anthropology," and Edward Chaszar's "The Place of East Central Europe in Western Civilization."

The main purpose of our periodical as well as of its issuing body, The Mid-European Research Institute, New York, N. Y., is to reevaluate past and present affairs of Central Europe in order to find a proper solution to its problems: a lasting peace based on justice and equality with the full cooperation of all nations concerned. A growing number of experts grouped around the review and its sponsoring institution have worked incessantly toward achieving this objective. From the very outset their activities have been centered on that goal and without exception they have arrived at the conclusion that in order to avoid past and present errors a system of neutralization and federalization should be established in the Danubian area ranging from Germany to Russia. This common goal has been scrutinized from different viewpoints by authors of various ethnic groups. As a result, almost each and every article reflects as a recurrent feature the urgent need for founding a neutral, federated Central Europe.

The scope of inquiry covers quite a broad field. Part I (International Relations) tries to elucidate foreign policy constellations by examining Central Europe's relations with the East and West with a view toward creating a Buffer Zone situated between Germany and Russia. Part II (Federalism in Central Europe) attempts to clarify some specific factors of a regional arrangement. Part III (The Nationality Question) highlights ethnic conditions with particular emphasis on Czechoslovakia and Rumania. The concluding chapter, Part IV (Economic Problems), considers economic conditions and policies, and the Appendix includes many interesting maps as well as statistical data.

I find myself ill-equipped to say how grateful I am to those who assisted and guided me in the development of this volume. I am happy

to record my considerable debt to Mr. Eugene Padányi-Gulyás for having brought this project to my attention and for his subsequent encouragement and advice. My gratitude goes also to the Danubian Press, Inc., Astor Park, Florida, for publishing our enterprise. My daughter, Christina Maria T. Wagner, gave unstinted cooperation in editing and assisted with excellent proofreading. My thanks are also due to Mrs. Edith Talbot Kardos for her generous help in the initial phase of editing.

It is worth mentioning that an all-important volume is already in preparation entitled *A Hundred Years of the Danubian Nations, 1867-1967; A Statistical Handbook* which is to be issued by the Mid-European Research Institute. Members of this Institute have long felt the need for such a work which can help pave the way for a federative solution. This is why the present volume is dedicated and why the aforesaid statistical compendium will be dedicated to those who are able and willing to promote this grand design.

During the whole editorial process I have been keenly aware that uniformity in such a work of widespread collaboration could be achieved only through forcible reconciliation of conflicting views. No attempts have been made to achieve this undesirable goal. All contributors to this volume have been at complete liberty to express their opinions and have not been influenced to any extent in any regard. The views expressed in this book by individual contributors are, therefore, not necessarily those of the Editor. On the contrary, in several instances the Editor's opinion has been in sharp conflict with views represented by individual authors, particularly when historical backgrounds of certain Slavic problems have been depicted. Needless to say, every author assumes full responsibility for his article.

In working on this project I have become increasingly aware of the difficulties involved in materialization of the principles relating to the reorganization of the heart of the Old World. But we shall all the more welcome any suggestion furthering those ideas and any objective criticisms by experts in the fields of the political and social sciences, history, as well as international law. Due to the complexity of the topics in our volume, I felt compelled, in place of a standard Introduction, to depict in historical perspective the most characteristic features of Central Europe which I hope will enable us to arrive at an understanding and interpretation of the complicated reorganizational problems.

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