

wide variety of texts, from impressionistic essays to articles which discuss animals from the perspective of literary theory and history and those which examine animals in literature and folklore from a mythological or a psychological point of view.

It should also be noted that the book is exquisitely done, with remarkable graphic design and numerous illustrations ranging from medieval manuscript illuminations to photographs, which is quite rare

when it comes to scholarly publications. Quotations about animals from Leonardo da Vinci, Albert Einstein, Mark Twain and many others inserted between texts illustrate the general idea of the volume, which is to highlight the role of the animal in the human world. Despite occasional oversights in the final editing of some papers, this volume stands as a significant contribution to cultural animal studies.

LADISLAV HLADKÝ ET AL., *VZTAHY ČECHŮ S NÁRODY A ZEMĚMI JIHOVÝCHODNÍ EVROPY*. PRAGUE: HISTORICKÝ ÚSTAV, 2010, pp. 367.

*Reviewed by Miloš Luković**

The book *The Czechs' relations with the nations and lands of Southeast Europe* originated from the research project of the Historical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic entitled "The Czech historical space in European context: diversity, continuity, integration" (Český dějinný prostor v evropském kontextu: diverzita, kontinuita, integrace). The head of the group of authors – and the editor-in-chief of the book – is Ladislav Hladký and the reviewers are Mirjam Moravcová and Václav Štěpánek. The authors are mostly members of the Historical Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences (Prague, Brno) or on staff at the universities in Prague, Brno and Pardubice, but some of them come from other institutions, such as the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, the National Technical Library in Prague, the Institute for Folklore of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia, or the Greek Embassy in Prague. In the *Foreword* (pp. 7–10), L. Hladký points out that the aim of the authors "has not been to provide a thorough synthesis of Czech–Southeast European relations, squarely based on new and hitherto unpublished historiographical findings from primary sources", but rather to "provide a

brief and complete factual survey of the contacts between the Czechs and the nations and lands of the region in question", and the main contribution of this book lies "in its complexity". In the *Introduction* (pp. 11–17), the development and wider context of Czech–Southeast European relations are outlined. These relations are divided into two phases: the medieval period (9th–15th centuries) and the more recent past (19th century until the present). Therefore, the relations between the Czechs and the individual nations and regions in Southeast Europe are examined during these two phases, with special reference to the post-1878 period when the Habsburg Monarchy (which included the Czech people within its boundaries) extended to the new lands in the Balkans (Bosnia and Herzegovina) up to the contemporary times during which some new states emerged in the region. Two maps are added to the *Introduction* (pp. 18–19): (1) the contemporary states in Southeast Europe (in 2010); and (2) a political map of Southeast Europe in 1878 (following the Congress of Berlin). The chapters on

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relations between the Czechs and the individual nations and lands are as follows:

- Czecho-Slovenian relations (pp. 21–45) by Ladislav Hladký and David Blažek
- Czecho-Croatian relations (pp. 47–72) by Petr Stehlík
- Czecho-Bosnian relations (pp. 73–96) by Ladislav Hladký, Adin Ljuca and Jiří Kuděla
- Czecho-Serbian relations (pp. 97–124) by Tomáš Chrobák and Jana Hrabcová
- Czecho-Montenegrin relations (pp. 125–146) by František Šístek
- Czecho-Macedonian relations (pp. 147–166) by Petr Stehlík and Ladislav Hladký
- Czechoslovak-Yugoslav relations (pp. 167–188) by Tomáš Chrobák, Miroslav Tejchman and Jana Hrabcová
- Czecho-Kosovo relations (pp. 189–196) by Kamil Píkal
- Czecho-Romanian relations (pp. 197–219) by Filip Šisler and Miroslav Tejchman
- Czecho-Moldavian relations (pp. 221–223) by Filip Šisler
- Czecho-Bulgarian relations (pp. 225–252) by Jan Rychlík, Vladimír Penčev and Miroslav Kouba
- Czecho-Albanian relations (pp. 253–262) by Pavel Hradečný, Ladislav Hladký and Kamil Píkal
- Czecho-Greek relations (pp. 263–274) by Pavel Hradečný and Konstantinos Tsivos
- Czecho-Cyprus relations (pp. 275–279) by Pavel Hradečný and Konstantinos Tsivos
- Czecho-Turkish relations (pp. 281–294) by Petr Kučera

These chapters are followed by illustrations (pp. 295–304): portraits of the most important personalities who influenced the said relations and photos of scientific and artistic works of Czech authors relating to the nations and lands of Southeast

Europe. There are also a list of abbreviations (pp. 305–306), a bibliography, an index of personal names, a summary in English (pp. 341–365) which mirrors the structure of the book, and a list of authors (p. 367) containing information about their institutional affiliation.

Each contribution precisely recounts all the territorial changes in the various states of Southeast Europe with which the Czechs gradually established relations. For that reason, Czecho-Yugoslav relations required a study of its own i.e. a study of relations between the state of Czechs and Slovaks (Czechoslovak Republic and Czecho-Slovak Republic) and the state of South Slav peoples (the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes, Kingdom of Yugoslavia and Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia). Certain nations from Southeast Europe lived, and still do, in various states so their contacts with the Czechs took place within different frameworks. For example, Czecho-Serbian relations included political, cultural and economic contacts between the Czech lands (Bohemia, Moravia, the Czech part of Silesia) and those inhabited by Serbian ethnic community: during the middle ages the Serbian lands were those within the independent Serbian state, situated in the central region of the Balkans, and later this term also referred to other provinces which were inhabited by Serbs in the fifteenth–seventeenth centuries; at the beginning of the nineteenth century these relations became relations of the two modern nations, Czechs and Serbs.

This book reaffirms the traditional and considerable interest of Czech historiography in the nations and lands of Southeast Europe. It provides a wealth of information and points to many relevant sources in an encyclopaedia-like manner. It is thus exceptionally useful to all researchers (and other readers) interested in relations between the Czechs and Southeast European peoples and lands.