

burst on to the scene at any moment, a nationalism that is often tinged with anti-Russian sentiments. Part two of the book deals with the potential for the future, what reform could mean for the East European states, and how the West can aid the changes in progress through arms reduction, economic cooperation, and expanded cultural links.

Dawisha argues that we are watching a transition in this region in which the Soviet Union is going from an occupier to the head of an alliance of sorts. This alliance is to be based on a cohesion of respect rather than fear. Gorbachev hopes to strengthen his ties to Eastern Europe in the process. He has consistently emphasized the right of people to choose their own paths of development but has to date not denounced the Brezhnev Doctrine. Dawisha does stress though that Gorbachev's pronouncements have yet to be tested in a crisis situation.

Dawisha's book is a welcome addition to the growing interest in Eastern Europe and its relationship to *perestroika*.

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A vármegyék kialakulása Magyarországon [Development of the Counties in Hungary]. By Gyula Kristó. Budapest: Magveto, 1988. Pp. 645.

The origins of the county as an administrative unit in Hungary cannot be defined with precision. The available sources depict it as an already existing organisation, but the date of the sources only points to a time period *before* the beginnings may be placed. Studies on the origins of the county remain confusing as late as the turn of this century. Some researchers regard it as an institution that had been forced upon the conquering Magyars in the late ninth century; they explain it in accordance with the *comitatus* system of Charlemagne, against a Frankish-Bavarian backdrop, as if it had been copied by King St. Stephen (*ob.* 1038) from the imperial (German) administrative institution. In 1938, the nine hundredth anniversary of King Stephen's death, scholars maintain that the Hungarian county could not possibly have been of Slavic origin—regardless whether the Magyars, as the new settlers in the Carpathian-Danubian basin, could have taken over the Slav *zupan* [administrative] system. After 1945, Hungarian Marxists go to the extreme in saying that the conquering Magyars had, in the 890's, found a ready made Slavic state organisation in Transdanubia (the area south and west of the Danube); the Marxists trace the royal county institution to a base developed by the Slavs. Kristó himself thought, as late as 1978, that the emerging Hungarian "state" and Church had used Slavic terminology in formulating their policies.

It was the erudite György Györffy who said that the Hungarian county cannot be traced back to the Slav *zupan* system (cf. his articles in *Századok*,

1958; summarized in his *István király és műve* [King Stephen and his work], Budapest: Gondolat, 1977, 203-232); Györffy traced the precedents of the Hungarian "state" (and not so much of that of country) prior to the conquest, to the early developments among the Magyars in the east, mid-ninth century. He looked upon the nomadic Magyar state as the last growth of the Orchon Turkish political structure. In the 1980's, Hungarian research scholars deny even the possibility of Slavic input into Hungarian institutions. They speak instead of an immanent formation of the Hungarian county. The number of Hungarian medievalists has, however, greatly shrunk in the meanwhile, thus research into the origins of the county will continue but slowly. Kristó's book is the first real attempt in this regard; and has benefited from György Györffy's multi-volume *Árpád-kori Magyarország történeti földrajza* [*Geographia historica Hungariae tempus stirpis Arpadianae*] (Budapest, 1963 etc.). In preparing maps of the land possessions of the descendants of the families that had taken a part in the conquest Györffy realized that the "county" had surrounded their lands: he sketched the outline of the county to the lands of those families. It may be that Györffy projected conditions of the fourteenth century to those of the eleventh, but, Kristó argued, the county dating from the age of St. Stephen had survived until its dissolution in the mid-thirteenth century.

Kristó's book is divided into two parts. In part one, in three detailed chapters, he describes the formation of the county, defines what a county is, and analyses the temporal and ecclesiastical interaction in its administration (pp. 21-235); in part two, he cleverly narrates the development of the county on a regional basis: in Transdanubia, the Drave-Save region, northern Hungary, the Danube-Tisza plain, and in eastern Hungary including Transylvania (pp. 239-512). There is a brief summary. He posts four well-drawn maps (pp. 156, 517-19), though it ought to have been possible to have the maps printed on a larger scale and attached to the end of the volume. The book is concluded by an end-note apparatus in small print (pp. 523-602), a bibliography (pp. 605-42), and the table of contents on p. 645.

One can be thankful to Professor Kristó for his study of the origins of the Hungarian county during the Middle Ages. Hopefully, the book will appear in a non-Hungarian language edition to benefit scholars who, though interested in the subject, do not read Hungarian.

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*Kristó György
druha moneta,
Katalin 1981.*