

been for the fact that both sides gradually lost interest in overt cooperation after the "black day" of the German armies on the Western front on August 8, 1918. Leaning heavily on limited evidence and distorting it, Herwig has added to rather than done away with clichés surrounding this important phase of Soviet-German relations.

JIRI FABŠIČ

*University of Manitoba*

Professor Herwig does not think it necessary to reply.

TO THE EDITOR:

In reviewing our *A Serbian Village in Historical Perspective* (September 1974) Professor Jožo Tomasevič displays a normal sort of academic modesty: he would apparently like to see all books on postwar Yugoslavia mirror that which he considers most important. His concerns are admirably presented in *Peasants, Politics, and Economic Change in Yugoslavia*, published in 1955 and now somewhat dated. Our own modest volume (152 pages in all) is not such a tome and does not claim to be. What it *is* is a short book focusing on peasants, specifically Serbian peasants, in the course of the past one hundred years. It was prepared within the framework of an anthropological series designed to present survey case studies in cultural anthropology.

Tomasevič's assessment of what is important—"agricultural cooperatives, government planning, and the village in wartime"—implicitly pits what he regards as trivial or folkloristic against more "serious" matters. A reviewer versed in a social-structural, cultural perspective, in other words in an integrated view of village life, would understand that ethnographic topics relate directly to economic life and, more importantly, to the nature of a functioning peasant society. How can Tomasevič reject the notion of the importance of such an integrated view and at the same time presume to talk about Serbian values?

Of course the war was important. Obviously the impact of the Communist victory was great. This we acknowledge in our book. We choose to deal in the concluding chapter with the consequences of this revolution rather than the details of the struggle, which preoccupy the reviewer. Wars destroy, but they do not in themselves invariably bring about fundamental social and cultural change. Some matters are slow to alter despite the intervention of war and revolution. An example treated in our study is the relative economic and social statuses of extended kinship groups in the village, which show a continuity going back over one hundred years. Perhaps the most significant change in the postwar village has been the massive urban-bound migrations of youth over the past two decades. This phenomenon has no historical precedent and transcends political boundaries and ideological systems. In our book we also deal with changes which we consider to be a specific outgrowth of Yugoslav communism.

Our study was not written for the specialist, but it does not take a learned reviewer to realize that the small lignite mine in this village (Tomasevič cites it as evidence that the village is therefore atypical) is a common rural extractive enterprise, secondary to the village economy and coexisting with traditional cultivating and herding patterns.

"In analyzing agriculture they rely too much on quotations." Right. We let Serbian scholars and the local people to whom change is happening express their

own perspectives, their anxieties and values. Admittedly this is a departure from traditional economic history.

On the subject of demographic data Tomasevich should take heart. The source data from which we get our figures, the village censuses of 1863 and 1960–61, happen to contain a large amount of economic as well as sociodemographic data. These data are currently undergoing computer processing and analysis. The results will be published.

From the restricted perspective of his review we wonder if Tomasevich is unaware of or uninterested in the fields of economic anthropology and historical demography, in which much fruitful cross-disciplinary research has developed in recent years.

JOEL M. HALPERN

BARBARA KERESKY HALPERN

*University of Massachusetts, Amherst*

PROFESSOR TOMASEVICH REPLIES:

Professor and Mrs. Joel M. Halpern are entitled to their views and interpretations as presented in their book, *A Serbian Village in Historical Perspective*. I stand by every word in my review of their book and consider the matter closed.