

necessary to state that they successfully achieved this aim. The book is made more attractive by a large number of illustrations and maps. The character of a chronicle is given by a chronology of the most important events, which supplements the text on almost every page. Brief word pictures providing the reader with information about types of weapon, biographies of important military leaders and in more recent periods officers in the Czechoslovak or Slovak army or legion, and quotations from original documents concerning military matters, excellently add variety to the text. The book is supplemented by illustrations of the indications of rank in the Czechoslovak and Slovak armies in the period 1920 – 2003, as well as badges and insignia of different parts of the armed forces since 1950. There is also a list of monarchs and presidents, who ruled this territory, a selection of literature concerned with the military history of Slovakia, and indexes of places and people.

In spite of the reservations mentioned above, it is necessary to welcome the book as a successful and useful achievement of the team of authors. This book in the English language will undoubtedly be a useful source of information for the foreign reader. This is especially true of the chapters devoted to the 20th century. The publication has all the pre-conditions to fulfill the function of an introduction to the military history of a wider region of Central Europe. The quality of its graphic format and large number of illustrations must also be highly appreciated.

Matej Hanula

ŠUCHOVÁ, Xénia. *IDEA ČESKOSLOVENSKEHO ŠTÁTU NA SLOVENSKU 1918 – 1939. Protagonisti, nositelia, oponenti. (THE IDEA OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK STATE IN SLOVAKIA 1918 – 1939. Protagonists, bearers, opponents)*. Bratislava : Institute of History of the Slovak Academy of Sciences; Vydavateľstvo Prodam, 2011, 312 pages.

The idea of the Czechoslovak state, the Slovak aspects of which form the thematic axis of Xénia Šuchová's monograph, was previously defined by various thinkers. Some of these definitions were considered, for example, by the Czech historian Kamil Krofta, who served as a diplomat and in the last years as minister of foreign affairs of the First Czechoslovak Republic. Krofta sought the historical roots of the *idea of the Czechoslovak state* in the thinking of František Palacký, for whom "the right of nations is really the right of nature", but he also took into account the arguments of Josef Pekař and justified the right to a state with historical arguments: "The historical forerunner of the present Czechoslovak Republic, the old Czech state, was founded by the Czechs in the 10th century, and throughout its whole history it remained essentially the state of the Czech nation, the expression of its will to live and the instrument for fulfilling its historic mission, in spite of all the powerful German influences on its development"¹. [...] Similarly, the present Czechoslovak state has grown from the roots of the old Czech state created by the joint work of the Czechs and their Slovak brothers, who were excluded for centuries from the common national community. It was created by the will and work of the members of both branches of the Czechoslovak nation, their achievements and sacrifices, according to their wishes and ideals. It was created for them so that they could live a full national life, a possibility they never had anywhere else."² For Krofta, the basic components of the "idea of the Czechoslovak state" were Masaryk's ideals of democracy

1 KROFTA, Kamil. *Idea československého státu. (The idea of the Czechoslovak state)*. In *Z dob naší první republiky*. Prague : Jan Laichter, 1939, p. 25.

2 Ref. 1, p. 27.