

Letters

TO THE EDITOR:

In his review of my publication *The Soviet Hungarian Republic and the Paris Peace Conference* (December 1964) Professor Frederick Kellogg of Boise Junior College completely overlooks the fact that the purpose of this study was an elucidation of the foreign policy of the Great Powers toward the short-lived Soviet Hungarian regime of 1919 and of the latter's erratic diplomatic course vis-à-vis the Paris Peace Conference, and not a detailed history of the Soviet Hungarian Republic and its internal problems. The rapidly worsening internal situation in Soviet Hungary was dealt with only to the degree to which it appeared necessary for an understanding of the zigzag "diplomacy" of the Soviet government, the main ambition of which was simply survival. This self-imposed limitation appears to have been well understood by two other scholars who so far have reviewed my publication and in whose opinion the diplomatic account which I presented was "accurate" and complete. Professor V. S. Mamatey in the *American Historical Review* (July 1964) refers to my monograph as a "detailed" and "systematic" "study of Allied policy and Soviet Hungary," and the reviewer in *International Review of Social History* (No. 2, 1964) speaks of the author's "elaborated treatment of the attitude of the Allies toward Hungary's Soviet regime." Where Professor Kellogg finds also "digression" the first-named reviewer sees only a "full" examination of Allied and Hungarian policies, and the second reviewer refers to the background material initially presented as a "short survey" of Hungary's and the later successor states' position during the concluding phases of the First World War and during the short democratic interval between the fall of the monarchy and Béla Kun's rise to power.

Actually, Professor Kellogg, not quite consistently, would have wished me to be even more "digressive." I should have discussed, he holds, not only Hungaro-Rumanian and Hungaro-Czechoslovakian boundary questions and general relations but also "the sources of friction—real and ephemeral[!]¹—which existed between the Magyars and the Serbs of the Voivodina." No purpose, however, would have been served thereby, since, as the record of the Peace Conference during the months in question clearly shows, the Voivodina was no issue at the time and did not affect the decision of the Great Powers in their policy vis-à-vis Soviet Hungary. Also, contrary to the reviewer, at no time do I "inform the reader that Soviet Hungary had no problems of consequence vis-à-vis Austria." Even a casual reading of my study should have acquainted the reviewer with the circumstance that previously I had discussed in detail Soviet Hungarian ambitions to extend the narrow Central European communist base into neighboring Austria ("The First Austrian Republic and Soviet Hungary," *Journal of Central European Affairs*, July 1960). The results of this earlier investigation are restated in my study (pages 38-40). The territorial differences between Hungary and Austria relating to West Hungary, the later Burgenland—to which reference is made—were rather submerged during the Soviet period

with both sides abating them, since larger issues were at stake. Finally, every student of the Peace Conference is of course acquainted with the differences arising between Italy and her allies, the prolonged absence of Italian delegates from Paris, and the on the whole, for obvious reasons, lesser influence wielded by Italian statesmen. Published Italian documents give no indication that an independent Italian policy toward Soviet Hungary was seriously contemplated or pursued during the latter's short existence. I have limited myself therefore to outlining Italian participation in the discussions in Paris and the *joint* Allied decision-making in regard to Soviet Hungary. Apparently, it is for these and other reasons that the reviewer of my study in the *American Historical Review* found my account to be a "full and systematic study of Allied policies and Soviet Hungary," a view shared by the other reviewer in *International Review of Social History*.

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