recovered to pinpoint the number of civilians killed in various actions. The conclusion draws together all the evidence Shepherd has amassed on the similarities of background and experiences that shaped the officers’ attitudes to terror in response to the failure of their counterinsurgency against the Partisans. It seems unlikely that the Wehrmacht could have gained much in the long term from co-opting Chetniks since, unlike the Partisans, they never formed a unified movement and generally collaborated for short-term pragmatic reasons: the Italians were all too aware of this. One correction: FWD (later Sir William) Deakin is known as “Bill” not “Frank” (223–24).

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This encyclopedic work covers most of the main trends in Czech cultural life during the twenty years that began with the communist putsch and ended just before the Prague Spring. While this may seem like a short period for such a large work, almost all of the bases for the communist domination of culture were laid down during this period and most of them survived with only marginal changes until the regime’s fall. This was also the period when most Czechs were introduced to modern ways of living.

The authors have clear goals concerning what these volumes are intended to cover. Cultural events or happenings (kulturní dění) refer to the regime’s cultural policies and their implementation, including legislation, congresses, organizations, and even controversies. Culture here runs the gamut from literature to stamp-collecting, from circuses to architecture. Lifestyle (životní styl) then focuses on the everyday life of citizens, whether in terms of their homes, their shopping and eating habits, or their free-time activities.

The emphasis is on trends and institutions rather than individuals. Josef Škvorecký, for example, appears in the text, not as a writer with a distinctive place in Czech literature, but as a participant in writers’ conferences and as the object of a debate over his novel Zbabělci (The Cowards, 1958). Where individual cultural works or creators are considered, they are almost exclusively collectives or the product of collectives like television or radio programs or the Czech pavilion at the Brussels World’s Fair.

The volume begins with a useful overview essay on the main trends of this period. This features a short history that gives equal attention to relatively ignored eras like the New Course in 1954–1956, the schizophrenic years of 1957–1960, and the economic crisis of 1961–1963 as to better known ones like Stalinism and the thaw. A section on communist lifestyle devotes attention to the now-forgotten ways that the regime attempted to bring culture to the masses and rationalize habits of everyday life. Given the large number of entries that follow—there are 1300—this essay provides a useful form of integration, though cross-references within the entries are also helpful.

The actual entries can be divided into several groups. Probably least useful are those that simply document trends that are well-known to inhabitants of modern societies—the spread of washing machines, prepared foods, and cars, though even these provide product names and dates. A few are surprising: the use of the drug fenmetrazin as a study aid or the suicide hotline founded in 1965.
More intriguing are places where the communist regime put a unique spin on modern habits. Though the regime was suspicious of collectors, they found ways to influence them. Philatelists, for example, were encouraged to collect stamps by topic rather than country or type to increase the educative function of their hobby. The breadth of the entries shows how the regime left no sphere of life unchanged, not even crossword puzzles or the names of popular dishes.

Even better are those experiments that did not pan out. These include such anomalies as a cable radio system, a licensing system for hitchhikers, a train line run by children, a nighttime spa for workers to recover their strength, and various forms of socialist competition intended to increase supplies and quality, though inevitably in vain. Some of these were ahead of their time as in “shopping to your bag” where women left a shopping list at the grocery store in the morning and picked up their shopping after work.

Shortages of course play a key role: many children drank low-alcohol beer because of the lack of nonalcoholic alternatives, wristwatches for women were not manufactured until the 1970s, scaffolding on certain buildings remained in place for years, and workplace dining often featured only a single form of silverware (a spoon). Particular attention is paid to the regime’s attempts to rationalize eating habits: the introduction of Balkan specialties like lecsó, the battle against dumplings, and the propagation of dairy products.

The sheer quantity of useful information, almost all drawn from original archival sources and footnoted, makes this an essential reference volume. Though the authors disavow any attempt to be comprehensive, they have covered considerable ground and include abstract concepts (fear of war, travel abroad, kitsch) along with the more concrete.

That said, it is not a volume that many will read from cover to cover. Even long entries lack paragraph breaks, the authors can occasionally be pedantic (in describing what a museum is or how aluminum foil is used) and sometimes unforthcoming (some entries describe the institutional reaction to the phenomenon more than the thing itself—for example, tramping). The large number of conferences and congresses with copious references to leaders, participants, and speeches can be hard to digest as the authors only sometimes explain their significance. Similarly, some concepts are given considerably more space than they deserve—Josif Stalin’s impact on linguistics, the Esperanto movement, and lotteries.

More pleasing is the frequent use of photographs, the references to portrayals of many concepts in popular film, and a useful appendix with television and radio listings. The volumes are certainly worth having for both reference and browsing and should inspire students looking for new research topics.

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