ingly forced to admit that Paul's only option was to accede to the Tripartite Pact or face "destruction from without and explosion from within." (p. 107) When he was overthrown in a coup actively encouraged by the United States and Great Britain, all bets were off and just about every worst-case scenario anyone could imagine came in to play.

There is a deplorable lack of editing evident in this book, most noticeable in the form of random commas scattered throughout the text that make not just for amusing reading but also for distortion of meaning. E.g., "Instead of fighting Croatian officers and soldiers, simply let the Germans walk in unopposed." (p. 146)

The complexities of subject matter are simultaneously Tasovac's book's weaknesses and strengths. Weaknesses because the reader can drown in a sea of facts and fictions, policies and perceptions, interests and incalculables. Strengths because that same reader, if able to remain afloat, gets insights into both the personal foibles and the political diversity of a myriad of players, some of whom were powerful, almost all of whom were quixotic.

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These two volumes bring together a considerable amount of information and a variety of perspectives on post-communist agrarian reform in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Johan Swinnen's collection focuses on Eastern Europe, with only one brief article on Russia, and brings the story up to 1995. It begins with a theoretical discussion by Ewa Rabinowicz and Swinnen of basic concepts involved in decollectivization, privatization, and restitution, and the political and economic issues around which proponents of different types of transformation organized. Then an article by Erik Mathijs briefly summarizes agrarian history in East Europe, country by country, from the interwar years to the 1980s. These are followed by articles on particular countries or groups of countries: Albania by Azeta Cungu and Swinnen, Latvia and Lithuania by Rabinowicz, Bulgaria by Swinnen, Czechoslovakia by Isabelle Lindemans, the former East Germany by Konrad Hagedorn, Hungary by Mathijs, Poland by Lindemans and Swinnen, Romania by Marvin Jackson, Russia by Don Van Atta, and Slovenia by Stefan Bojnec and Swinnen. In these chapters the authors outline the political history of each country during the transition to post-communist systems, and then analyze agricultural developments in that context. Most chapters also have appendices on political parties and other aspects of the transition period, so the study functions as a type of quick reference book as well. In the last chapter, Swinnen summarizes the main patterns of agrarian reform.

Stephen Wegren's collection focuses more than Swinnen's on the former Soviet Union and more narrowly on land reform up to 1997. It includes articles by Wegren on land reform in Russia, by Timothy Ash on land reform in Ukraine, and by William Meyers and Natalija Kazlauskiene on land reform in the Baltic states. An article by David J. O'Brien, Valeri V. Patsiorkovski, and David Dershem reports on a field study of rural attitudes toward land reform in three Russian villages. Peter C. Bloch and Kathryn Rasmussen examine land reform in Kyrgyzstan, while articles by Zvi Lerman and Karen Brooks examine land reform in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. In the last section of the book, articles by Pe-
ter Bloch, Keith Howe, and Zvi Lerman and Csaba Csaki discuss land reform in Albania, Bulgaria, and Hungary.

The different approaches in these books lead their authors to different emphases and overall evaluations of agrarian reform, particularly evident in those cases covered by both books.

Thus, in discussing Albania, Cungu and Swinnen highlight the connection between the land reform by the new communist regime in the late 1940s, antecedent to collectivization, and the Albanian peasants’ revival of that system in 1991, after the fall of the communist regime. In response to economic crisis and decline in food production that year, peasants spontaneously dissolved their socialist farms. An anticommunist government elected in 1992 supported the peasants’ initiative as a means to eliminate the institutional basis for the former communists in rural areas. Cungu and Swinnen argue Albania underwent the most radical decollectivization in all of Eastern Europe. Bloch’s discussion of Albanian land reform in the Wegren volume pays much less attention to politics but provides a clearer explanation of the history of the land problem and of land reform in the 1990s. It also shows, contrary to Swinnen and Cungu, that much land in Albania was returned to its former owners or their heirs. Bloch also discusses the social and economic effects of land reform.

Both of the articles on Hungary emphasize the success of agriculture in communist Hungary and the new government’s efforts not to disrupt an effective system. Economic reforms from the 1960s on made Hungarian agriculture the most commercialized of any in the region and earned a large export surplus. Csaki and Lerman point out that private plots and the state sector in Hungarian farms were more integrated than elsewhere, resembling contract farming. Consequently, as Mathijs notes, neither farmers nor post-communist governments supported the kind of radical transformation that took place in Albania. Both non-communist (elected 1990) and former communist (1994) governments sought to protect managers and workers in the socialist farms (who were a large factor in elections) to take advantage of their competence. The Hungarian transformation thus involved a privatization and subdivision that maintained basic parts of the old system. According to Csaki and Lerman, the 1,635 former socialist farms were transformed into some 6,300 limited-liability companies, shareholder companies and cooperatives. Many of these now provide services to the almost 30,000 individual farms established by 1995. The new government relied on compensation rather than restitution for communist-era losses, but most former owners who received compensation by 1995 leased their land back to cooperatives. Hungarian agriculture includes both small farmers, who farm some 60 percent of arable land, and state-run and privatized large farms. As elsewhere, Hungarian farm production fell drastically with the reforms, but its food exports have recovered and enable the country’s net exports to remain positive.

In Bulgaria, Swinnen argues that agrarian reform has been an issue of dispute between former communist and anticomunist governments. The Bulgarian Socialist Party, the former Communist party, delayed reform in 1990-91 because privatization threatened its rural power base in the socialist farms. This delay helped to bring the anticomunist opposition to power, led by the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) that sent committees of reformers to villages in an attempt to accelerate decollectivization. This effort was too rapid for many people, however, and subsequent elected governments eliminated those committees and slowed reform. Howe, in the Wegren volume, suggests that post-communist land reform is repeating the pattern of land reform that followed Bulgaria’s liberation from the Ottomans in the late nineteenth century. He outlines the political events that Swinnen discusses and provides more information regarding the reforms themselves. The processes of restitution and reallocation involve cumbersome procedures and legal conflicts. For example, regional courts authorized claims that substantially exceeded the total land area of