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Od nepřátelství ke spolupráci
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**Československo a Svatý stolec.
Od nepřátelství ke spolupráci
(1918–1928). I. Úvodní studie.**

PEHR, Michal and ŠEBEK, Jaroslav (2012): Prague: Masarykův ústav a Archiv AV ČR.

The monograph by a duo of experienced and well-known authors Michal Pehr (Masaryk Institute and Archive of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic) and Jaroslav Šebek (Institute of History, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic) is dedicated to mutual relations between Czechoslovakia and the Holy See in the first decade of the interwar state's existence, and it is instantly obvious that this is a result of several years of research in both Czech and Vatican archives. It has to be noted that the publication is the first in the Czech history circles to look at this issue in more detail (the history of mutual relations between the CSR and Vatican in the interwar period has not yet been addressed in a comprehensive way), attempting, and very successfully for that matter, to add another piece to the mosaic of the complex issue of relations between the Czechoslovak state and the Catholic Church.

Since this is the first more comprehensive work on the topic, it does not aim for overall coverage of the Czechoslovak-Vatican relations in the first decade of the existence of the independent Czechoslovak state (the scope of unpublished archival sources of both Czech and Vatican origin is truly remarkable) but points out selected significant issues and questions of the examined period. The important thing is that the authors very rightly understood that to examine a topic defined in such a way means to separate several levels: diplomatic relations between the CSR and the Holy See, the relationship between the Catholic Church and the state and, last but not least, the

relationship of the Holy See to the domestic Church and conversely the relationship of domestic Catholic Church representatives to the nunciature and its representatives.

Reading Pehr's and Šebek's publication, we need to be aware that the Holy See represented the Roman Catholic Church which maintained the position of the strongest confession in Czechoslovakia despite a significant decline of support in 1918. Questions of the church and religion, including relations with Vatican, significantly influenced overall social life in the Czechoslovak state – politics, culture, education, ethnic relations and social and economic conditions. After all, the position of the Czechoslovak People's Party and its leader Msgr. Jan Šrámek within the Czechoslovak government and its policy, which had anti-Catholic character at times, was not easy in this respect. Chapters dealing with the nomination right to appoint bishops and with the Marmaggi affair are the most beneficial of the entire work, in my opinion.

As mentioned above, Michal Pehr's and Jaroslav Šebek's monograph represents a successful and truly innovative attempt at the examination of mutual relations between Czechoslovakia and the Holy See in the first decade of the interwar state's existence. It can certainly be said that the authors filled another blank in the research of this historical period. Nevertheless, there are several things in the book that deserve a clarification or correction. I do not understand why the authors consistently write *Gesandschaft* instead of the correct *Gesandtschaft* (both in the text and in the final list of sources and literature); on pages 34 and 35, Vlastimil Kybal is once titled ambassador to Rome and later legate to the same; on page 83, the authors erroneously stated that the Treaty of Trianon was signed on 4th July instead of 4th June; there is also some inconsistency in remarks 510 and 512.

However, these are only marginal objections that in no way disparage the quality of the publication. It can therefore be concluded that Michal Pehr's and Jaroslav Šebek's monograph meets demanding requirements and certainly deserves attention not only of readers who are experts in the First Republic but also of the lay public.

Roman Kodet

Legends of the Samurai

SATO, Hiroaki (2012): London, New York: Overlook Duckworth.

The topic of the samurai and warfare in medieval Japan is quite frequent in a row of popular books in the west. However there are not much extensive scientific works dealing with this question, either there are only few of medieval Japanese text available in English. Of course many of the classical Japanese works such as *Genji Monogatari* (The Tale of Genji), *Heike Monogatari* (The Tale of Heike), or the famous *Pillow Books* are already translated into many languages, but as for the samurai and their ethos the reader must settle with often published volumes as *The Book of Five Rings* written in 1645 by famous swordsman Musashi Miyamoto or *Hagakure* composed by Yamamoto Tsunetomo at the beginning of the 18th century.

The holder of PEN Translation Prize Sato Hiroaki (written in Japanese style – giving the family name first) tried to fill in this blank space by his anthology of classical texts related to the life of samurai, some of which are translated to any of western languages for the first time. His goal was to create a whole new look at the proud warriors of medieval Japan, then the English-speaking reader is used to. His selection of text is therefore focused mostly on less known personalities (although the famous one like Minamoto no Yoshitsune, Kusunoki Masashige or Oda Nobunaga are not missing) and often not typical views of the samurai. In this way Sato's anthology colorfully describes the life in pre-modern Japan and gives the reader a plastic and more-dimensional glance on the samurai who are often in a simplified way perceived as only brave warriors whose aim is simply to fight and obey their master.