

Богдан Љ. ПОПОВИЋ, *Дипломатска историја Србије. Завод за уџбенике и наставна средства*, Београд, 2010, 621 p.

A career diplomat and a descendant of a family that has provided Serbia with multiple generations of intellectuals and diplomats, Bogdan Lj. Popović (1913–2010) has earned, among the Belgrade historians, the renown of a literal treasure trove of archive records. He acquired such status after decades-long meticulous rummaging through the depositories in Yugoslavia and in the capital cities of the countries where he served as a diplomat. After co-editing with Dušan T. Bataković the memoirs of his grandfather, Dimitrije, a Serbian minister in Sankt Petersburg during the Balkan wars (Димитрије Поповић, *Балкански ратови 1912–1913*, Београд, 1992), Bogdan Lj. Popović dedicated his last years of life to researching Serbia's diplomatic history over the modern times. Showing a keen interest in the institutional development of a new state entity, he first published a history of the Serbian Ministry of Foreign Affairs dealing with the period between the first Serbian rebellion (1804) and the rise of the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes (1918). The said book (Bogdan Lj. Popović, *Istorija Ministarstva Inostranih Dela Srbije*, Beograd, 2005, p. 165) traces the genesis of such institution, the operation and organization of which is a reflection of the international status of the small Balkan state. During a century, the country advances its status from an integral part of the Ottoman Empire to a Kingdom maintaining a diplomatic network comparable to those of its neighboring South-Eastern European states. This diplomatic system goes on to include as many as 14 diplomatic missions and 81 consulates by the time of the World War I. Such early chapter of modern diplomatic history is thoroughly dealt with by this ample book, released shortly after the death of this most respectable author. His purported purpose is to provide an all-embracing analysis of Serbia's international status, its relations with its foreign partners and its role in the Balkan area during 1798–1918.

The book includes three sections, each capturing distinct ages in the modern history of Serbia: a rebelling pashalic, an autonomous principality and an independent state. For Popović, the diplomatic history of a state must proceed from its formal documents, which also serve as a litmus test of its then-current international status. More specifically, we mean such documents supported by the state authority: treaties, protocols, agreements, notes, memorandums, diplomatic instructions and any other papers issued by the chancellery of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Therefore a strictly event-based, chronological approach is embraced here for, as he is the first to admit, the author is only faintly interested in memories, and private notes or correspondence. Says the Serbian historian, this kind of documents may be interesting all right, and even useful in specific respects, but then can't possibly act as a bona fide resource of a diplomatic history. As private documents they are often biased and even unreliable, and were compiled some time after the occurrence of the related events for that matter. It's a fair approach indeed, to some point. However, the use of such documents would have not adversely affected the quality of the book. On the contrary, one might say.

This is a book much needed by all those interested in Serbia's modern history. Moreover, it could have become a valuable instrument for historians, had it been accompanied by a bibliography and appendixes containing detailed information on the timeline of the Serbian diplomatic missions.

*Daniel Cain*

Glenn E. TORREY, *The Romanian Battlefield in World War I*, Lawrence KS: University Press of Kansas, 2011, XVI + 422 pp.

Glenn Torrey has devoted nearly five decades to painstaking research in an exhausting array of civilian and military archival repositories in Romania, Austria, Germany, France, Russia, Italy, Great Britain, and the United States dealing with Romania and World War I. His extensive studies of the international/diplomatic aspects related to Romania and the Great War have been previously collected as *Romania and World War I* (1998). This handsomely produced first rate work completes the portrait with a detailed analysis of the Romanian battlefield during the war. In addition to the archival