

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.

Petra Kodetová

In order to accomplish his ambitious goal (i.e. to change the stereotype image of samurai) Sato divided his work into four major parts and he also adds a thorough introduction, where the life and institutions of ancient Japan are thoroughly and clearly explained. In the first one he presents mostly ancient texts dealing with fates of individual samurai. He selects them carefully to emphasize most of the aspects of life of the warriors slowly forming the samurai class. The reader can therefore be a witness of the life in Japan in the first millennium. Although the texts are very ancient (structure, pace, composition and intellectual background is quite different than the western reader is used to), Sato's translation gives them vividness and clarity, which makes them pleasure to read. Sato also accompanies his selected texts by many explanatory notes and comments which are indispensable to understand the text and helps with its interpretation.

The second part of the book is dedicated to the lives of some of the most famous war leaders in the Japanese history, but also here Sato picks some texts in which their life is shown in an untraditional way. He also adds some less known texts (for example the tragic story of love and lust about Kō no Moronao), which show leading samurai personalities in less traditional way. The same can be said about the third part in which Sato presents early modern texts about the way of the warrior written by samurai themselves. Sato again mixes here some well-known texts (supplemented by rich commentary) with the up to this time unfamiliar captions (for example Lord Sōun's Twenty-One Articles written by Hōjō Sōun at the beginning of the 16th century). However Sato presents also famous stories as the account about the Forty-Seven samurai, which already penetrated western imagination, but Sato's commentary gives it new dimension and sets the story into wider scope of Japanese history. In the last part Sato complements his collection by a modern retelling of the tale of The Abe Family by Mori Ōgai, which presents the perceiving of their history at the turn of the 19th and 20th century. Sato supplements his collection of old Japanese texts by some maps and illustration. He has also added a useful index of important figures and some other minor annexes. The research he has made can be seen in an extensive bibliography.

As a whole Sato presents the reader with an exceptional work comprising historical texts encompassing one and a half millennia of Japanese history with rich commentary. His book gives much more different impression of samurai life and culture, than the western reader is used to. Instead of schematic paradigm of a samurai created by some popular books, novels (especially James Clavell's *Shogun*), TV series or films, Sato shows the complexity of samurai life and culture through superbly translated ancient texts. In this way he enriches the western knowledge of complicated social and intellectual structure of the medieval Japanese society. Although Sato's book is only a selection of various historical texts, his contribution to research of pre-modern Japan couldn't be underestimated. On the contrary Sato's book can be without doubt marked as a masterpiece which sheds light on the complex life of the medieval Japanese warriors which is so different from the world we currently live in.

Zdeněk Nejedlý, politik a vědec v osamění

KŘEŠŤAN, Jiří (2012): Praha-Litomyšl: Paseka.

Jiří Křesťan, the historian and the archivist working in the National Archive in Prague, has written a voluminous book focusing on the life and work of the Czech historian, left-wing politician and since 1948 to 1953 Minister of Culture and Education, Zdeněk Nejedlý (1878–1962).

Zdeněk Nejedlý was a controversial character in the Czech historiography and politics as well. On the one hand he can be seen as the student of the famous historians like Josef Pekař and Jaroslav Goll and from this point of view it is needed to appreciate his works on the field of the music history and of course his contribution to the medieval history. An important fact is also the compliment of Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk to the Nejedlý's work (mainly his articles etc.) On the other hand his image has been damaged by his political career and his work for the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic after 1948. The speech after the trial with Rudolf Slánský can be seen as a turnabout of his perception.

The author shows the life, character and also work of Zdeněk Nejedlý in this book in an objective and balanced way. He also avoids to schematize that is one of the merits of this book. Therefore, the reader can see the picture of well-educated, many-sided student at first, and, shortly after, a qualified and an efficient scientist, whose interests were also cultural, for instance "according to his friend *Quido Hodura*, Nejedlý saw the opera *Libuše* eighteen times in one season" or there is written in one part of the book "it was music that was contributive to becoming closer to some colleagues at the