major themes of mutual relations at the turn of the millennium. It is a pity that two critical topics (the Temelín Nuclear Power Station and the Beneš decrees) overshadow this mutual relation and that this narrow focus is replicated in contemporary historiography, meaning that other aspects of the restored neighborly relations are overlooked. Unfortunately, Suppan is not an exception in this case. Despite the chronological arrangement of the text, Suppan pays attention to the topics appearing in the mutual relationship throughout centuries, such as language questions, building national identity, and especially persistent prejudices, mutual distrust, and lack of judiciousness between the neighbors. In the final summary, the author recapitulates the most important findings and parallels of this common history and reflects on how appreciation for this history can shape present and future relations. He argues that the people of both countries should be aware of their shared responsibility for the region’s development and seek a common approach to responding to important future issues.

The text is very dense and detailed yet still very readable, as the author enriches it with interesting and personal stories. In addition to political developments, Suppan also presents social, economic, and demographic developments as well as cultural contacts. However, the daily coexistence of Czechs and Austrians could be emphasized more, as well as the specifics of the border region. A more structured organization and subdivisions would help readers and provide greater clarity. Despite the abundance of the titles in footnotes and in the final bibliography, it is difficult for the reader to identify relevant expanding literature on individual themes. An annotated bibliography would be very helpful in this case. There are a few instances when the author incorporates value judgments—for instance in his discussion of the period after World War I when he criticizes the duality of Czechoslovak argumentation (the right to self-determination, but in the territory of the historical countries) and when he states that acts of the Czechoslovak state and the Czechoslovaks were a cruel revenge to German-speaking fellow citizens after the Second World War—but these are relatively rare. Overall, the text presents a balanced assessment that takes into account the perspectives of both the Czechs and Austrians.

Even for historians with knowledge of the history of Austrian-Czech relations, this book brings some unexpected insights and interesting perspectives. Suppan finds parallels between the nations in the modernization and centralization processes but also in the times of suppression and in the alignment with national history. This comparative approach is effectively demonstrated, for instance, in his connection of the Victim Myth in Austria and the Myth of Münich in Czechoslovakia. In conclusion, this book fulfills what can be expected: a synthesis full of information, sometimes too condensed and unstructured, but offering a comprehensive overview on the relations between the close bounded nations of Austria and the Czech Republic.

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doi:10.1017/S0067237819000109

This volume on the history of immigration policies about refugees, edited by Börries Kuzmany and Rita Garstenauer, comes just in time, as hardly any topic has such an ongoing impact on current public discourse in Europe than the arrival of large numbers of refugees from Asia and Africa in 2015 and 2016. As the title of the book promises, together with the introduction, the nine chapters, which were originally presented at a conference at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in September 2016, address in various ways the mass mobility of refugees from, to, and within the Habsburg Empire and the Republic of Austria. The topics vary from migrants who entered
Habsburg Lands from the Ottoman Empire in the eighteenth century by Timothy Olin, to refugee movements during the French Revolution by Matthias Winkler, and Jews who fled from Russian Pogroms in the late nineteenth century by Börries Kuzmany. Hannelore Burger also focuses on Jewish refugees who lost their citizenship during both World Wars, while Dieter Bacher and Niklas Perzi analyze forced laborers, displaced persons, and expellees in Central Europe after 1945. The chapters by Maximilian Graf and Sarah Knoll address migrants who fled socialist countries in the 1950s, 1960s, and 1980s, while Hasan Softić’s chapter on Bosnians coming to Enns (a town in Upper Austria) during the Bosnian War in the 1990s is a case study on chain migration patterns. In the introduction, Rita Garstenauer and Börries Kuzmany carefully place their book within the wider context of historical migration and refugee studies by emphasizing the importance of the topic in current public discourse.

According to the editors, all chapters raise issues about conditions of forced migrations, the numbers of people concerned, modes and conditions of resettlement to a new country, especially the situation of refugees in Austria, chances and ambitions of the newcomers, as well as public discourse in various periods. Only the chapter on Bosnian refugees follows a different order because it presents a case study. Even when dealing with highly variable quantitative and qualitative phenomenon, the stories told in all other chapters are comparable. However, the authors prioritize various aspects of expulsion and flight over the three centuries. The volume thereby arranges mostly forced migration patterns within one concise story line and sheds lights on a major topic of today’s migration research, which is not always guaranteed by books that summarize conference papers.

Two aspects are of special importance when speaking of international migrations and adaptation of newcomers: What were conditions and rules for migrants, and did the receiving society consider migrants and refugees a potential threat or benefit? While in the eighteenth century, the Habsburg migration regime invited certain groups to settle at the border of the Ottoman Empire and even used these people for border management, Habsburg administration was against integrating French refugees after 1789 due to safety concerns. In the late nineteenth century, the biggest concern of Habsburg authorities was the sheer number of Jewish people fleeing pogroms in Russia. During the First World War, mostly Galician refugees were treated as vagrants and the state either interned or deported them out of public suspicion and mistrust against certain groups such as Jews. During the second half of the twentieth century, the Austrian government gradually developed a migration regime that preferred refugees and migrants who might benefit the Austrian economy. For the people who left Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Poland during the second half of the twentieth century, Austria was more of a transit hub to pass through than a destination country. While in the 1950s, Austrian society considered these people to be victims who needed help, over the course of the next decades, public opinion skeptically turned into a hostile attitude against newcomers.

Given the political relevance of the topic, the usage of terms such as “Wirtschaftsflüchtling” (44) or “Migrationswelle” (55) in the chapter by Timothy Olin is surprising. Such metaphors create images of an excess of people, either as refugees or labor migrants, and suggest a destructive power of such movements. Because this is the only article written by an American author and translated into German it might be due to translation errors. However, even minor changes of wording might have significant impact on political opinion making. Despite this small criticism, what makes this volume innovative and worth reading is the combination of a rich variety of topics on the history of migration regimes in Central Europe. This is an important book on the process from state-sponsored to private charitable support of large refugee populations in the Habsburg Empire and the Republic of Austria.

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