

since the advent of modern times. He calls the Czechs the "model" nation, paving the way for the other smaller peoples of the area (p. 14). More egregiously, he sprinkles his narrative with outdated and infelicitous terminology to describe regimes and peoples. Austria's character is "half-hearted and inconsequential" (p. 32) and East European peoples in the nineteenth century are "weak and primitive" (p. 33).

Kren concludes with perhaps unjustified optimism that the preconditions which were necessary for a Czech-German reconciliation in 1918, but absent at that time—social equilibrium, economic prosperity, political democracy, moderate leadership, and international stability—are the recipe for success in the next century. That will be a tall order.

RONALD SMELSER
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Ungleiche Partner? Österreich und Deutschland in ihrer gegenseitigen Wahrnehmung: Historische Analysen und Vergleiche aus dem 19. und 20. Jahrhundert. Edited by Michael Gehler, Rainer F. Schmidt, Harm-Hinrich Brandt, and Rolf Steininger. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag. 1996. Pp. 668. DM 198.00. ISBN 3-515-06878-3.

Since the mid-1980s comparative Central European history has become a growth industry. Works which self-consciously relate German, Austrian, and even Swiss developments across a spectrum of chronological and thematic frameworks have become more numerous and popular. The grand European political transformations of 1989 have only encouraged this trend. The volume under review represents an important contribution to this literature. It was undoubtedly a daunting task to bring together nearly two dozen international scholars from various academic backgrounds to create a volume analyzing nearly two hundred years of German-Austrian relations. It is no less daunting to try and review such a volume succinctly.

Thomas Brechenmacher and Monika Glettler provide excellent introductory essays, whose main thrust is to show how Germany and Austria have heretofore been treated in each other's historiography. Not surprisingly, both authors show how politics have affected historical understanding. For instance, Glettler discusses the conservative mindset of Viennese and other Austrian historians during the interwar years of the twentieth century, a time when Greater German sentiment was quite strong in the Alpine republic. Brechenmacher concludes his introductory essay by stating that the independence of present-day Austria should remind German historians in the postreunification world of the diversity of political traditions in Central Europe. Both Glettler and Brechenmacher therefore remind Central European scholars of the ways in which politically-influenced historical paradigms have affected our conceptions of the past.

war on Germany. Geiss also emphasizes the culpability of Serbia and Russia in 1914.

A contribution by an American scholar, Evan Burr Bukey, is another one of the highlights of the book. Bukey's essay on Austria after the *Anschluss* of 1938 is contained in a section analyzing the period of National Socialism and the Second World War. Bukey argues that support for the Nazis in Austria was strong, but not universal. Critical to the story of 1938, in his estimation, was that the Austrians had little independent national identity in the interwar period and believed in a Greater Germany. Moreover, Bukey states that antisemitism tended to be strong across the political spectrum in Austria and aided in the Nazi seizure of power, even if many people were not wholly convinced by fascist rhetoric or entirely willing to throw their political allegiance behind the new, post-1938 order. Thus, as in Germany, support for the Nazis might be popular and substantial, even if common citizens complained about individual policies and people did not join the party in overwhelming numbers. As Ian Kershaw has shown elsewhere for Germany, as long as the Nazis could deliver on several major promises and maintain their mystique as a party of action and ideas, popular opposition, let alone active resistance, to fascism remained diffuse and muted. In Austria, the Nazis won credit for achieving a Greater Germany, fighting unemployment, and launching a rigorous and brutal campaign against Jews. These elements kept Austrians from fleeing what Bukey calls the "*Anschluss* system" (p. 531) until nearly the end of the war. Franz Müller and Dieter Binder also contribute important and interesting essays to the difficult relations between Austria and Germany from 1933 to 1938. Finally, Michael Gehler provides two stimulating essays on German and Austrian efforts to deal with political and economic challenges in the tumultuous period immediately following the Second World War.

The outline of *Ungleiche Partner?* is straightforwardly chronological. Most of the authors employ models drawn from political and economic history. Far less attention is paid to common or distinctive cultural or intellectual trends. Similarly, there is virtually no treatment of women's or gender issues in this volume. Thus, the essays represent important contributions to comparative politics and economics in Central Europe, but they are overwhelmingly traditional in their subject matter and methods. Nevertheless, the text is an important contribution to comparative political and economic history in Central Europe and should be recommended to historians, political scientists, and all those concerned with the region's past, present, and future.

WILLIAM D. BOWMAN
GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

Several essays in the volume treat the important economic and political connections between Austria and Prussia in the *Vormärz*. Peter Burg and Hans-Werner Hahn demonstrate that although it was possible for the two nations to cooperate on several key political issues, most notably on matters touching on domestic security and sometimes on military strategy, their economic imperatives often drove the two countries apart. As Hahn carefully explains, Prussia's growing interest in economic affairs, especially the *Zollverein*, gave it a leadership position in Central Europe that lasted throughout the middle decades of the nineteenth century. These are not wholly new conclusions, but Hahn's thorough treatment of the economic issues involved and their corresponding importance for the balance of power in Central Europe warrants close reading. In particular, he shows how the Habsburg monarchy was caught in a double bind: the more attention it paid to exclusively German economic affairs, the more likely it was to run the risk of neglecting imperial financial matters. Thus, the Prussians and not the Austrians gradually gained the economic advantage in the lands which lay between them.

A number of essays analyze the political relationships between Austria and Prussia-Germany in the post-*Vormärz*. Martin Senner and Bernhard Unckel discuss the two countries' involvement in the Crimean War and the war of Italian unification of the 1850s. This section, another strong part of the book, places Austria and Prussia in their proper, wider historical context. Senner, for example, argues that Prussian reluctance to cooperate internationally with Austria prevented two major crises of the 1850s from escalating into general European wars. Michael Derndarsky and Andreas Kaernbach examine Austrian-Prussian relations in the 1860s and 70s. The two authors demonstrate persuasively that political reform plans of the period constantly came to naught and that Austria in particular had increasingly less diplomatic room in which to maneuver. Further, Derndarsky and Kaernbach show how individual politicians and diplomats often drove this story and finally how military options became increasingly likely for German-Austrian relations. As contributions to political and diplomatic history, these two essays are impressive.

A large section of the book, over one hundred pages, is dedicated to Austrian-German relations in the long run-up to the First World War and during the war itself (1879-1918). Rainer Schmidt, Lothar Höbelt, Harm-Hinrich Brandt, Manfred Rauchensteiner, and Imanuel Geiss all contribute essays to this section. Höbelt analyzes the relations of the Dual Alliance leading up to the war and its consequences for an understanding of German-Austrian relations in the twentieth century. Rauchensteiner and Geiss present competing and yet complementary models of responsibility for the outbreak of the war. While Rauchensteiner's eloquent writing, some of the best in the volume, focuses the reader's attention on Austria's role in precipitating the war in the Balkans in 1914, Geiss engages in an elaborate analysis, which places the lion's share of the blame for the outbreak of the