

- (5) There is a range of doubtful words, either semantically or phonetically; they need further study:

*alik* ‘now’, *ayala-* ‘to disgrace’, *bejizät ver-* ‘to be like’, *boγoz* ‘neck’, *boyin* etc. in the meaning ‘throat’, *ehiya* ‘necessary’, *eñiř* ‘downwards’, *gubur-* ‘to move, to flock’, *ğänlat* ‘slaughterer’, *kiriř* ‘roof’, *kügürčün* ‘dove’ (cf. Rebi *kögürčün*, p. 117), *oturux* ‘inhabitant’, *qisti* ‘necklace’, *sehabu* ‘truth’, *ud* ‘calamus’, *yipelek* ‘silk’.

- (6) Other remarks:

*melek* is not translated;

*pikata*, *pkata* ‘grandfather’; an etymology alternative to that proposed by Ianbay (< *pek*, *päk* < *bäg*, *bik* ‘strong’ + *ata* ‘father’) is from *büyük* ‘big, great and *ata* ‘father’, i.e. similar to English ‘grandfather’; the same is valid for *pkana* ‘grandmother’.

Ianbay’s dictionary enriches our knowledge of Krimchak and the fascinating ethnic group of the Crimea who once spoke this language. Krimchak vocabulary is similar to Crimean Tatar, Crimean Turkish and Crimean Karaim, but incidentally it may bring new, interesting evidence. For example, there are such unusual forms as *dombuz* ‘pig’, quoted from Rebi, if it is correct, and such archaic words as *axtxe* ‘grandson, granddaughter’. In general, the question of correctness is an issue to discuss in the case of a language whose speakers are on the way of language shift and when they do not normally use that language in communication.

No doubt Ianbay’s *Krimchak dictionary* is an important publication which complements the dictionary formerly published by Rebi. Her *Krimchak dictionary* will be better available for the international reader and being a trilingual Krimchak-English-Russian lexicographic tool, will be very useful to everybody interested in Krimchak, the Jewish languages of the Crimea, and the spiritual culture of the Turkic people of this region.

*Henryk Jankowski*

Jan Dvořáček, Linda Pinkerová, Jan Záhořík, *A History of Czechoslovak Involvement in Africa. Studies from the Colonial Through the Soviet Eras*, with a Foreword by István Tarrósy, The Edwin Mellen Press, Lewinston Lampeter 2014, 188 pp.

The history of relations between former socialist countries and Africa, both in historical and contemporary context is little known in the literature written in Western languages. Eastern European countries (excluding Russia) till now are, unfortunately, treated as a periphery of Europe, not only in geographical terms. In each of these countries, e.g. Hungary, Poland or Czech Republic we have a great number of books and studies devoted to abovementioned theme, but only a little amount of them are known for Western scholars and readers. For this reason the reviewed book by three Czech authors, Jan Dvořáček

(historian), Linda Pinkerová (politologist), Jan Záhořík (africanist) from the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen is of great importance.

The book is interdisciplinary and covers as well the history of Czechoslovak-African cultural and political relations, contemporary international relations as the history of Oriental Studies in Czechoslovakia, i.e. in Slovakia, Czech Republic and Czechoslovakia. As the history of this country in 20<sup>th</sup> century is rather complicated (there is no place here to explain this problem) sometimes it is hard to say, if we have to do with the history of Czechoslovak, Slovak, Czech or also Austrian relations with Africa, especially in the context of Oriental Studies and travel in 19<sup>th</sup> and at the beginning of 20<sup>th</sup> century. The monograph fully covers the period of existence of Czechoslovakia (1918–1938 and 1945–1989) and partially time before its existence and the period after dissolution of this state. The authors, unfortunately, are not consequent in this respect, especially according to the period after 1989 – they mention several times the Czech-African relations, fully ignoring the Slovak-African relations. It is probably due to the fact, that all of them are Czechs.

The book consists of following parts: *Foreword* by renowned researcher in the field of international relations from the University of Pecs (Hungary), Prof. István Tarrósy, Ph.D. (pp. iii–vi); *Introduction* (Linda Pinkerová, Jan Záhořík, pp. 1–4); *Czecho(Slovak) – Southern African Relations: From Adventurers to Development Partnership?* (Linda Pinkerová, pp. 5–66); *Ethiopia in the Works of Czech Travelers, ca. 1900–1948* (Jan Záhořík, pp. 67–85); *Breaking the shackles of colonial rule in Africa?: an overview of the Czech-Soviet penetration into Africa in the early 1960s* (Jan Dvořáček, pp. 86–132); *Czechoslovak view on the Congolese decolonization, ca. 1955–1965* (Jan Záhořík, Jan Dvořáček, pp. 133–167). The book is supplemented by a map showing Czechoslovakian diplomatic missions in Africa (1918–1989).

The book covers a lot of interesting problems and themes of different nature and it is very hard to enumerate all of them. As mentioned above, the book has an interdisciplinary character. For this reason every one interested in African affairs would find here something for himself.

The second part is devoted to Czechoslovak relations with South Africa. Although it has mainly political character, we can find there one specific plot – a story about the renowned Bat'a Company, which entered Africa in 1920's and expanded "in all of Africa from Morocco through Kenya, Congo and Nigeria to Angola, Rhodesia and the Union of South Africa" (p. 19). Although everyone knows this brand of shoes, only few of people associate it with Czech Republic.

The third part, dealing with Ethiopia has especially "orientalist" character – it is devoted to the history of Czech discovery of Ethiopia and travelers and orientalist who contributed to the Ethiopian studies, mainly Viktor Mussik, Alois Musil and Adolf Parlesák. Among these travelers especially important is Alois Musil (1868–1944) – an Arabist and Semitist, co-founder of Oriental Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the

Czech Republic in 1922 (not 1992 as noted on p. 79). He is an author of the book titled *Lev ze kmene Judova. Nová Habeš* (1934, "Lion of Judah. New Ethiopia"), devoted to contemporary problems of Ethiopia. Záhořík underlines the Ethiopian interests of Musil, who is primarily known as an Arabist.

The next chapter describes the activity of Czechoslovak and Soviet diplomacy in Africa in early 1960s. The diplomacy is understood very widely here, but is concentrated primarily on so called "soft power". Especially interesting is the part devoted to the activity in the field of high education and instruments of communist propaganda used by Czechoslovaks and Soviets in this concern. Another important point is the question of so called "African socialism", which remained an unrealized idea held by some of African political leaders and political thinkers.

The last part is devoted to Congo and Czechoslovak's view concerning decolonization of this country. Here (as in the case of Ethiopia) we have a small monograph of Congo-Czechoslovak relations. These relations are described quite thoroughly and show many facets of the activity of Czechoslovaks in this country. Especially deeply described is their contribution to the development of education and health care.

As written above, the activity of Czechoslovaks in Africa is described quite carefully and comprehensively. From my point of view however the Authors paid too little interest to the development of Czechoslovak African Studies at the universities, especially at the Charles University in Prague. We have no occasion to know names of prominent Czechoslovak Africanists. Among the most important, internationally respectable achievements of Czechoslovak African studies the Authors didn't mention for example such valuable books like *Black Africa: Literature and language* by Vladimír Klíma, Karel F. Růžička and Petr Zíma (1972, Engl. Translation 2012) and the third volume of *General History of Africa* co-edited by Ivan Hrbek (1<sup>st</sup> ed. Paris 1988).

The book is based on wide bibliography, including archival and printed sources. I wonder however, why the authors didn't use such an important book for the history of Czechoslovak African studies like *Kdo byl kdo. Čeští a slovenští orientalisté, afrikanisté a iberoamerikanisté* ["Who is Who. Czech and Slovak orientalist, Africanists and Iberoamericanists"], ed. by Jan Filipický (Praha 1999).

Despite abovementioned small shortcomings I am sure, that the reviewed book is a very important and interesting contribution to the history of political and cultural relations between Europe and Black Africa, very useful for orientalist, historians and researchers in the field of international relations. It shows that the Eastern European countries don't exist on the margin of world affairs, but actively co-create the world history and its present times.

Marek M. Dziekan