

instance, gives a stimulating sketch from the historian's viewpoint; in "Pindar and Sicily" (p. 106–121) Pindar's Sicilian songs are evaluated as historical and cultural sources, while in "Virgil and the Augustan State" (p. 260–279) the same problem is approached in the field of Roman history.

The extreme interest in the great personalities of ancient history is documented in essays on Dorieus, the Spartan prince whose activities in North Africa and Sicily in the 6th century B.C. were so outstanding (p. 62–105); Themistocles (p. 122–139), Alexander the Great (p. 140–157), Constantine the Great (p. 280–300) and Theoderic and Clovis (p. 406–419; 420–431). These contain many very personal appraisals and judgments. There was a powerful reaction at the time to his lecture to the Erfurt Historians' Conference of 1937 on "Theoderic the Great and his Roman Mission" (p. 406 to 419), which offended the proponents of the current National Socialist Germanic cult in cultural policy, because it provocatively stressed the significance of the Roman tradition.

The hitherto unpublished lecture on the liberation struggle of the Maccabees (p. 249–259) and the major, earlier work on "The Germans in the Roman Empire" (p. 301–405) complete the volume, which is concluded with a brief postscript by S. Lauffer (p. 434–439) and a detailed index (p. 440–452). Its users can only be grateful to the publishers, the editor and his assistants for this attractively presented volume, which will preserve the memory of Graf Stauffenberg's work and personality.

Professor Dr. Karl Christ

VOGEL, BERNHARD, NOHLEN, DIETER, and SCHULTZE, RAINER-OLAF

Elections in Germany. Theory – History – Documents 1848–1970

[“Wahlen in Deutschland. Theorie – Geschichte – Dokumente 1848 bis 1970”]

Berlin: Verlag Walter de Gruyter, 1971; 465 pp.

This book represents a new edition of two contributions (“A conceptual introduction to election systems” and “Elections in Germany”) from the manual entitled “Parliamentary elections” edited by Dolf Sternberger and Bernhard Vogel (currently Minister of Cultural Affairs in the Rhineland Palatinate).

Part 1 deals with definitions and functions of elections (middle-class democratic and bolshevist definitions), the principles of electoral law (general, equal, secret, direct, free), fundamental concepts and formative elements of the electoral system (majority, proportional election, d'Hondt method of

vote evaluation, restrictive clause) and special types of electoral systems (excess mandates, "splitting").

Part 2 presents a history of elections in Germany, in five sections: Prior to the foundation of the Reich in 1871 (national assembly in Frankfurt, in 1848, three-class suffrage in Prussia), in the Kaiser's Reich (in particular the discrepancy between universal suffrage in the Reich and class suffrage in Prussia), the Weimar Republic (proportional voting, radicalisation of voters), the Federal Republic (the parliamentary council and the electoral system – restrictive clause –, the grand coalition), the German Democratic Republic (from the Landtag elections in 1946 to the constitutional reform of 1968).

Part 1 contains a multitude of definitions of terms and an enumeration of characteristics and criteria which provide concise information on all the various forms and functions of elections. The word "election" is defined as "a means of forming corporate bodies or appointing persons to an office"; the democratic interpretation of the word has always held it to be identical with "selection". The essential criteria are: nomination, competition, equality of chances, freedom of election, selective process, election for a limited period. The book also deals with all the technical procedures intended to ensure that an election is as democratic as possible. The bolshevist interpretation of elections serves confirmation and representation of political unity and also mobilisation of the forces of society. – Election systems differ in parliamentarism either as majority (personal) voting systems or proportional (list) voting systems. These two can be combined – the best known method, i. e. to divide the votes cast between the parties involved, is that devised by the Belgian mathematician d'Hondt (method using divisors 1, 2, 3, 4...).

The historical part (II) is far more extensive. The authors (Vogel and Schultze) have succeeded in presenting, in compact form, a comprehensive historical and statistical survey of the development of parliamentarism in Germany, starting from the fundamental concept of "elections". In this way the reader is given an insight, far beyond the title of the book, into the many endeavours of the German middle-class who considered themselves to be democrats and liberals to achieve a democratic parliamentary state. The large inserted tables listing forms of suffrage in the various German federal states are very helpful; without them, the authors could not possibly demonstrate and elucidate the astounding multitude of forms of suffrage and election systems in the Federal German state since 1867/71.

In Bismarck's constitution, the authority of the Reichstag was confined to budgetary matters and there was no accountability of the chancellor. The Kaiser was entitled to dissolve the Reichstag, as the Reichspräsident was entitled to do in the Weimar Republic, in which a steady decrease in the liberal and increase in the radical voters occurred. When parliament, which,

because of the proliferation of parties, was unable after 1930 to obtain an absolute majority, was deprived of power, the road led, via the "presidential republic" and a tacit change in the constitution, to the national socialist dictatorship.

An important feature of the constitution of the Federal German Republic after 1945 is the restrictive clause (5 %) which prevents the development of small parties.

Further significant features are the trend towards a three or two-party system and the conversion of the social democratic party from a radical class-bound party to a popular party. This development is typical of the age, as is the dissolution or the abortive resurgence of the Catholic centre party which benefited the non-sectarian CDU (Christian-Democratic Union). The abandonment of the concept of the ideological party which was once considered to be typically German, in favour of a more pragmatic type of party, is the consequence and, in some ways, the cause of a change in the behaviour of voters. This alone permitted the formation of the "grand coalition" of CDU/CSU and SPD in Bonn, and, at a later date, a government of SPD and FDP.

In the DDR, other parties are allowed to exist apart from SED but have hardly any influence, because the so-called "block system" predominates. The voter deletes from a list the names of candidates unacceptable to him. Anyone who obtains more than 50 % of the valid votes is considered elected.

An extensive bibliography and other appendices contribute to making the book a valuable source of information and reference book, in other words, a true "manual".

Professor Dr. Wolfgang Schlegel

WIESFLECKER, HERMANN

Emperor Maximilian I. The Empire, Austria and Europe at the beginning of Modern Times. Vol. I: Youth, Burgundian Inheritance and Roman Kingdom up to the Time of his Sole Rule. 1459–1493.

[*"Kaiser Maximilian I. Das Reich, Österreich und Europa an der Wende zur Neuzeit. Band I: Jugend, burgundisches Erbe und Römisches Königtum bis zur Alleinherrschaft. 1459–1493."*]

München: Oldenbourg Verlag, 1971; 608 pp., 17 ill.

The author, Professor for Austrian History at the University of Graz, has been collecting material and carrying out preliminary studies for more than two decades in order to write this grandiosely planned biography of the Habsburg, probably in four volumes. He was aided in this by various