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Review of the book Central Europe Profiled: Essential Facts on Society, Business and Politics in Central Europe

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Central Europe profiled: essential facts on society, business and politics in central Europe, ed. by Barry Turner. St. Martin's, 2000. 307p ISBN 0-312-22994-1 pbk, \$17.95

This book might better have been called (in Oskar Halecki's phrase) *East Central Europe Profiled*, since 250 of its 307 pages are devoted to just three countries: the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland. Turner, who also edits *The Statesman's Yearbook*, provides a wealth of handy information for those countries, including climate and territory, basic social statistics, literature and culture, economic data, social institutions, and brief profiles of leading politicians. Although that information is available in other sources, it is convenient to have it gathered in one book. Its main drawback is that for the other 13 countries of Central Europe (Albania through the former Yugoslav Republics, the Baltic countries), Turner provides roughly four pages each, with brief information about key historical events, territory and population, recent elections, current administration, and economy. No explanation is advanced as to why those countries are shortchanged; perhaps the editor intends to issue a volume on Eastern Europe, although some Eastern countries are included here. Had he supplied the thorough information for all the Central countries he did for the three democracies with Western-style market economies, this could have been a very valuable reference book, rather than a disappointment. Not recommended.—*J. A. Drobnicki, CUNY York College*