

Preface

The Second World War is undoubtedly one of the most controversial episodes of Hungarian history. The war had a profound impact on every aspect of Hungary's development. Its long-term consequences are still being felt today, and are likely to be felt for generations to come. Future historians of Hungary will no doubt regard the war as a major turning point in that country's evolution.

Mainly because of the war's momentous consequences, its discussion still invokes high emotions among Hungarians, scholars and laymen alike. Not surprisingly, opinions differ on virtually every aspect of Hungary's entry into, and role in the war. The divergence of views is only widened as a result of concerted and persistent efforts by certain politically-motivated groups to disseminate false or at least ideologically tinted interpretations regarding many incidents of Hungary's wartime history. Although nearly four decades have passed since the war's conclusion, historians seeking the truth still have to grapple with polemics, deeply felt prejudices, and continued efforts by some to obstruct Clio's progress.

Undaunted by these obstacles, a few historians continue to search and analyze Hungary's wartime evolution. Over the past few years, our journal has collected samples of their works and we have decided to fill the 1983 issues with these. We have divided them into two groups. The first deal almost exclusively with the origins of Hungary's involvement in the war; the second, mainly with the themes of opposition to the German war effort and the search for ways and means of dissociating Hungary from it. A few papers, also touching on Hungary's wartime history but not dealing directly with the themes mentioned above, will be printed in the 1984 regular issues of our journal. Occasional references to these papers will be made in the introduction and the footnotes to this volume.

While nearly all aspects of Hungary's history on the eve of and during World War II are controversial, the themes featured in this volume are especially so. In fact, some of them are virtually taboo in Hungary, while others have similar status in certain

Hungarian émigré circles. Our aim in presenting studies dealing with such themes is not to exacerbate the existing historical acrimony, but to promote a knowledge and understanding of some of the least-known and least-understood aspects of Hungary's history. We do not wish to promote or endorse a certain interpretation, or a set of interpretations. In fact, our readers will notice that the authors of this volume themselves do not agree on certain issues. As always in the case of our journal—or any other genuine scholarly periodical in the West—the authors' opinions are strictly their own, and are not necessarily shared by anyone else associated with us.

The continued publication of our journal, and the production of special volumes such as this one, is made possible only through the support and dedicated work of a number of institutions and individuals. For a few years now, the University of Toronto has, through its Hungarian studies programme, supported the *Review* by providing help, editorial facilities, and even the occasional subsidy. Various facilities available at the Royal Military College of Canada were used by the undersigned in the editing process. The National Archives of the United States, in response to our requests made many years ago, released a collection of pictures to us concerning the Kassa bombing. A team of authors patiently cooperated in the editing process. Some of them waited for the publication of their papers for a period that was longer than is the case with many other periodicals. Many scholars, too numerous to mention, helped in the revising of the manuscripts in their capacity as readers.

N.F.D.