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*The Kingdom of Hungary and the Habsburg Monarchy in the Sixteenth Century*

(East European Monographs No. DCCXXXV.; CHSP Hungarian Studies Series No. 18.)

Social Science Monographs, Boulder, Colorado; Center for Hungarian Studies and Publications, Inc. Wayne, New Jersey; Distributed by Columbia University Press, New York, 2009. XVIII p. + 410 p.

GÉZA PÁLFFY'S book examines the difficult and complex relationship between the Kingdom of Hungary and the Habsburg Monarchy in the sixteenth century. It analyses the process of Hungary's integration into the Habsburg's Central European composite state after the catastrophic defeat at the hands of the Ottomans at the Battle of Mohács in 1526. It highlights how, despite a degree of integration in military, finances and economy, Hungary managed to retain a unique position within the wider Habsburg conglomeration ruled from Vienna and Prague. Based on extensive research in the Austrian, Hungarian, Slovakian and Croatian archives, this monograph affords new insights into several contentious issues. It ranges widely, encompassing an analysis of why the Hungarian political elite and the aristocracy found it difficult to integrate into the Habsburg court in Vienna and Prague, a detailed survey of the new military defense system developed in Hungary and Croatia against the Ottomans, and the role the Hungarian kingdom played in Central Europe. By focusing on institutions and symbols of sovereignty, it demonstrates how it was possible for Hungary to both integrate into a larger monarchy whilst nonetheless preserving its sovereignty and the power of its estates to a considerable degree. The book thereby challenges the traditional perception of early-modern Hungarian history as a history of resistance and rebellions against the Habsburgs.