

irrepressible wish to improve their lives, and that people can indeed be "immunized" against insecurity and the need for enemies and scapegoats. As we approach the end of an awful century, and enter the next with no little anxiety, Parin's principles offer at least some encouragement.

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Tea Petrin. *Industrial Policy Supporting Economic Transition in Central-Eastern Europe: Lessons from Slovenia.* Berkeley, CA: Institute of International Studies, 1995. 51 pp., \$6.95 (paper).

Focus on industrial policy in the transitional economies of East-Central Europe is timely. As a result of the socialist central planning, the economic structure of these economies has been seriously unbalanced. The institutional framework within which economic agents act has been ill-equipped to embrace market reforms with no reference to the potentially very high costs in terms of real output loss and unemployment. The issue is very sensitive because a serious depression with high unemployment may undermine efforts to stabilize the political environment and thus materially damage support for market-oriented reforms. Therefore, this publication, addressing this issue in Slovenia, is certainly both interesting and very welcome.

The booklet should be primarily understood as a case study, based on a particular project directed by the author, illustrating the attempt of Slovenian policy makers to smooth changes in the economic structure. Nevertheless, the author, who likely prepared her publication during her visit to Berkeley University earlier in the decade, formed two conceptual elements into a coherent unit. The first part of the publication focuses on the economic conditions in Central European countries in their post-socialist period. It offers an attempt at theoretical justification of the need for an industrial policy. In the second part of the publication the Slovene experience takes center stage. The project of revitalization is presented in detail.

Based on inherited economic problems, the author identifies three crucial challenges for economies in transition: institution

building, macroeconomic stabilization, and real sector restructuring. She dispels the myth that privatization is all that needs to be done. Although it is often discussed as the most important condition for implementing a market based economy, the author correctly points out that, although important, it is merely a necessary condition. It is a part of building a broader institutional framework (legal system, elements of labor markets, capital markets infrastructure, etc.) that should provide the environment for normal functioning of the markets. Macroeconomic stabilization is a tool to eliminate short-term macro problems. Although mostly dealing with the demand side elements of the macroeconomy, the author comments that this stabilization was "quite successful" in Central European countries (3). However, she claims, supply side elements were anything but satisfactory. Therefore, she suggests that the restructuring of the real sector should be promoted as a way to establish the desired market-based economic structure. She finds that real-sector restructuring has been inconsistent and very slow due to a lack of entrepreneurial expertise.

A brief discussion is devoted to different approaches to industrial policy supporting economic transition in central and eastern European countries. They range from the neo-liberal to the strategic approach, which includes the dynamic long-term elements of the transition. The problems with the efficiency of the markets and financial restructuring in these countries leads the author to identify some of the elements necessary for successful transition.

The Slovene experience is the focus of the rest of the publication. The presentation of the economic situation at the time may be a useful historical reference for discussion of the transition experience. The data given may have been relevant and illustrative in 1995; however, due to dynamic changes in Slovenia they can hardly serve as an indicator of the economic situation today.

The heart of the publication is the description of an enterprise-revitalization project. It is a very interesting case study that reveals some details about the approach of Slovenian policy-makers to the problem. It seems (according to the publication) to have been a successful attempt to promote market-oriented approaches at the company level and to create the necessary infrastructure for normal functioning of the markets. This project sparked restructuring in several Slovenian enterprises. The most intriguing aspect of the presentation is

the identification of differences in cost profiles and market positions of Slovenian enterprises compared to the western benchmark. The value chains disclose substantial differences emanating from inefficiencies in management (administrative overhead is, in one of the presented cases, more than 10% higher), technology, or marketing practices. Through the project, which involved cooperation of domestic and foreign consulting agencies, knowledge of the structural disproportions in the value chain was disseminated to the management teams. This served as additional input for the “what to do list” in participating companies. The assessment of the market position and potential is the other essential part of the project. It is a crucial element of any attempt to understand the international competitiveness of companies in small open economies, and it showed substantial potential for several participants.

The study addresses issues of great importance to Slovenia and other central and eastern European countries, and is therefore a good contribution toward understanding the transition process. It is, however, by no means an attempt to build a theoretical model to explain the complexity of the transition. It is also not a comprehensive discussion of a broad range of issues related to the problems of economic transition. Its real value is its focus on the particular project that was prepared to help smooth the rough path into a market economy.

Despite the well-structured and transparent conceptualization of the publication, the links between the elements of the arguments are occasionally rather obscure. At times, slightly convoluted stylistic elements might prove to be a minor annoyance for the reader. Personally, I also find some theoretical suppositions in the text that do not fit my understanding of the issues. For example, regarding high unemployment rates and poor growth performance in CEE countries, I could only conditionally agree that these “countries have been quite successful in meeting the first challenge of transition—i.e., getting the macroeconomic environment right” (3). However, the most disturbing aspect of the publication is the lack of references. Although a few chosen references are listed in the notes at the end of the publication, there is not a formal reference list at the end of the booklet, as one would expect in a scholarly work.

In summary, I salute this attempt to address issues of paramount importance for economies in transition through the presentation of the project, which has clear objectives of smoothing out the transition path

towards a market economy. Nevertheless, a few improvements to some of the formal elements of the publication and a sharpening of its focus would certainly have been beneficial.

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Marko Snoj & Marc L. Greenberg, eds. *Slovenski jezik/Slovene Linguistic Studies*, Volume 1 (1997). Ljubljana/Lawrence, Kansas: Inštitut za slovenski jezik Frana Ramovša, SAZU/The Joyce and Elizabeth Hall Center for Humanities, University of Kansas. 165 pp.

The mission of this new journal is aptly summarized by its title: it is devoted to all manner of research on Slovene. In the words of its editors (uvodna beseda 3), "Its place and thus *raison d'être* is found at the intersection of linguistics and the Slovene language." The appearance of such a specialized journal should give all Slavists cause to celebrate in these times of shrinking enrollments and disappearing programs; its high quality will please all linguists, not just students of South Slavic.

SJ/SLS is being published jointly by the Fran Ramovš Slovene Language Institute (ZRC/SAZU, Ljubljana) and the Joyce and Elizabeth Hall Center for Humanities at the University of Kansas; it is ably edited by first-rate scholars at these institutions, Marko Snoj and SSS member Marc L. Greenberg, respectively. The very appearance of volume 1 (dated 1997) bespeaks high standards and professionalism: typos and editorial errors are minimal, and it is quite handsomely printed on high-quality paper. Physically, volume 1 is a joy to read.

Although in one sense narrowly focused, *SJ/SLS* promises a varied content: articles from linguists of "various kinds of training, schools of thought, and cultural viewpoints" (*ibid.*). Volume 1 certainly delivers in this regard: the nine articles treat a multitude of topics; four different languages are employed (Slovene and English, to be sure, but also Russian and German); and, in experience, the authors range from graduate students to world-renowned scholars. Overall, the quality of the articles is high; the specific subjects are generally interesting, although the quality of the writing varies considerably. Readers can