East Germany

Ever since the end of the Second World War when Germany was split up into four zones, the Soviet aim has been domination of all Germany and thus, indirectly, Soviet domination of Europe.

The first step in this direction is thorough sovietization of the Soviet zone of Germany which, with a population of about 18,000,000 in an area of 40,000 sq. mi., contains roughly about one quarter of the entire German population.

East Germany is an industrialized area and the Soviet plan calls for an increased productivity of 50 per cent by 1960. Woman labor which constitutes 45 per cent of the working population is crucially exploited. Farmers and industrial workers are forced to fulfill unreasonable production targets. Serious riots broke out in East Germany in 1953. Soviet tanks and armoured cars were required to quell them and martial law was declared.

Czechoslovakia

Czechoslovakia with a population of 12,400,000 and an area of 49,700 sq. mi. is about twice the size of Nova Scotia. It is a heavily industrialized country. The capital is Prague (pop. 922,000).

By a coup d'etat backed by the menace of direct Soviet intervention, a genuine democracy was converted into a “People's Democracy” on June 14, 1948, when a new government, avowedly communist, was formed. The East German riots of June 1953 had their counterpart in Czechoslovakia in the same month.

Rumania

With an area of 91,000 sq. mi. Rumania is the second largest of the Soviet satellites. It is about three and a half times the size of New Hampshire and its population is 17,000,000. The capital is Bucharest (pop. 1,041,807).

Petroleum is the backbone of Rumanian industry and general economy.

Like Bulgaria and Hungary, Rumania entered the Second World War on the side of the Axis. The advance of the Soviet armies reached Rumania in August 1944. King Michael was forced to abdicate on Dec. 30, 1947, and the People's Republic of Rumania was proclaimed.

Rumanian students have recently paraded in several cities to express their sympathy with the Hungarian rebels.

Poland

Poland with an area of 121,000 sq. mi. is the largest of the satellites although it is smaller than Newfoundland. Its population is 25,000,000 and it is an industrial nation. The capital is Warsaw (pop. 650,000).

Poland's economy was shattered both by the Nazis from the west and by the Soviet forces from the east.

The provisional post-war government of Poland was recognized by the UK, the US and the USSR in 1945.

The Poznan riots of June and developments in October 1956 give a clear picture of the attitude of the Poles towards communist enslavement.

Albania

Albania is the smallest of the Soviet satellites. With an area of only 10,700 sq. mi. it is half the size of Nova Scotia. It is almost entirely an agricultural country and its population is 1,150,000. Its capital is Tirana (pop. 30,000).

Albania was invaded by the Nazis. The Germans however withdrew from the country in October 1944. The local communists merely took over the government with Soviet technical assistance.

At the end of November 1956 the small communist satellite was reported in a state of ferment, following mass arrests and police shootings in attempts to suppress anti-gov- ernment demonstrations.

Bulgaria

Bulgaria has an area of 43,000 sq. mi. and is a little smaller than Czechoslovakia. It has a population slightly in excess of 7,000,000 and its economy is mainly agricultural.

Bulgaria entered the Second World War on the side of the Axis. The Red Army entered the country and on Sept. 9, 1944, the Father-land Front seized power by a coup d'etat. By the end of 1947 Bulgaria had a new constitution based on that of the USSR. The capital, Sofia, has a population of 435,000.

Towards the middle of November 1956 Russian troops arrived in Bulgaria to guard against internal disorders.

Hungary

Hungary with a population of 9,500,000 and an area of 36,000 sq. mi. is one and a half times as large as Nova Scotia. Its capital is Budapest (pop. 1,658,000).

Hungary is primarily an agricultural country; inxsite is also produced.

Hungary entered the Second World War on the side of the Axis, but it did so on a deeply divided country. Its attempts to get out of the war resumed in the occupation of the country by German troops. Overrun by the Red Army at the end of 1944, Hungary was given a provi-sional government that signed an armistice with the UK, the US and the USSR in January 1945.

After more than a decade of communist oppression, the omnipresent resentments of the Hungarians burst forth in the tragic struggle that shook the world in November 1956 and is not yet over.

Large numbers of Hungarian refugees have crossed the Austro-Hungarian border. Many are settling in Canada.

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