

Unlike the U.S.A., Canadian educational institutions offered little in the Slavonic languages before World War II and indeed there were not many courses dealing with the history, institutions and peoples of Eastern Europe in our universities.

The extension of linguistic, historical, cultural and economic studies to Eastern Europe has not been an altogether easy matter in Canada, where the traditional arena of study has been that of the area of Graeco-Roman civilization as continued in the countries of Western Europe. The traditional language disciplines in our schools and universities have been: French, Latin and to a lesser extent German, though by the last war Spanish was making some headway, particularly in Eastern Canada, and is even taught sporadically in the schools. Russian and the other Slavonic languages were not taught even in the universities; the only Slavonic language at all cultivated in formal school education was Ukrainian, and this was done not with a view to using the language for scientific or scholarly purposes, but rather as an expression of the desire of the large Ukrainian ethnic group which had immigrated into Canada to maintain ties with this original culture and tradition.

Development Impressive

Since 1945, however, development in Slavonic and Eastern European studies if looked at on a relative scale has been as impressive as in the U.S.A. Immediately after the war many Canadian universities decided to add courses on the Russian language to their curriculum and in some places Polish and Ukrainian as well. Side by side with this traditional discipline (language and literature) has come the addition of what in Britain are known as Regional, in the U.S.A. as, Area Studies: full-dress courses dealing with history, geography, economics and social and political institutions.

The development of courses in East European studies in Canada, though it has been fairly general since the end of World War II, has differed somewhat in emphasis and concentration from place to place. This is understandable when one considers the diversity of population groups and interests in so vast a country. The third largest ethnic group in Canada, that is after the two chief groupings of the Anglo-Saxon and the French-speaking Canadians, is the Slavic-Ukrainian group of the population. These Canadian citizens of Slavic origin constitute upwards of half a million out of a total population of about 15 million. This figure would be misleading without reference to the geographical concentration of our Ukrainian fellow citizens. Though their numbers east of the Great Lakes are growing fast, they still live chiefly in the Prairie Provinces, where in some areas they constitute a high percentage of the population. Thus, it is not surprising that the Universities of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta have instituted a noteworthy amount of study to Ukrainian language, literature and history, whereas the University of British Columbia, situated at the gateway to the Pacific, has concentrated more particularly on the study of Russia, the Soviet Far East and, of course, the Russian language.

In Eastern Canada a similar pattern of growth in Eastern European studies can be seen. The University of Toronto established a Department of Slavonic