

World War II; about one-fourth of the translated material deals with the military during the Great Purge, the Nazi-Soviet Pact period, and the Finnish War. This is in accord with Bialer's concentration on the social and political aspects rather than the technical side of military affairs, though the prewar coverage does enable him to show the origins of the strategic and technological blunders that caused the Soviet military forces such suffering. For both the prewar and the war period the selections are especially revealing on the nature of military leadership in the USSR and the interaction of civilian and military leaders. Zhukov's extraordinary power in 1941–42, his later rivalry with Konev and other marshals, and Stalin's complicated personality are only a few of the key issues of Soviet affairs illuminated by the memoirs. They also contribute considerably to our understanding of questions like nationality—the role of Russians as the last bulwark of the regime in 1945, the anti-Semitic sneers at men like L. Z. Mekhlis, Stalin's fear of being identified too closely with Beria as a Georgian. Bialer is keenly aware of the importance of the fact that his sources are divided into two roughly equal groups: those published before and those after Khrushchev's fall from power. In his extensive introduction and notes he frequently underscores the significance of the period of publication for his memoirist's treatment of particular episodes. In this, as in more general respects, Bialer's enormous industriousness and erudition are placed at the disposal of the reader. It is all the more regrettable that his publisher seriously limited the accessibility of this conscientious work by failing to include an index.

JOHN A. ARMSTRONG
University of Wisconsin

THE OTTOMAN IMPACT ON EUROPE. By *Paul Coles*. History of European Civilization Library. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1968. 216 pp. 109 illustrations. \$5.95.

The Ottoman Impact on Europe is an unpretentious volume. It is designed to inform college students and intelligent laymen of the actions of the Ottoman Turks that were directed against Western Europe and of the reaction of the West to Ottoman imperialism in the period 1520–1699. Professor Coles also provides such auxiliary information about the nature of the Ottoman Empire and its military machine as is necessary for a simple appraisal of the impact of the Turks on Europe. All this Coles has done well, in summary fashion, in the best tradition of the better textbook writers of the second half of the twentieth century. The book is thus a welcome addition to the meager body of literature on Ottoman and East European history currently available for classroom use.

The title of the volume, however, is misleading. The author's definition of "impact" is basically limited to military interaction between the Ottoman Empire and its western foes. The few references to the Turkish impact on the Renaissance and Reformation, for instance, are oblique and inconsequential. The discussion of extramilitary reactions by the West to Ottoman aggression, particularly in the cultural and economic spheres, is also perfunctory.

It is our impression that the choice of a title was imposed by the requirements of the historical series to which this volume belongs. Whatever the reasons, no title will elevate Coles's contribution above that of the basic textbook which in fact it is.

STEPHEN FISCHER-GALATI
University of Colorado