

On the positive side, the book is pleasantly written, and despite its narrow focus, readers will turn to it as a convenient English-language account of the rebellion.

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DE LA RUSSIE À L'U.R.S.S.: L'HISTOIRE DE LA RUSSIE DE 1850 À NOS JOURS. By *René Girault* and *Marc Ferro*. Paris: Éditions Fernand Nathan, 1974. 222 pp. 28 F., paper.

This brief survey of Russian history from the mid-nineteenth century to the present consists of three parts. Part 1 examines Russian society on the eve of the Great Reforms, the nature of these reforms, and their immediate and long-term impact on Russian society. Part 2 reviews the main events leading to the Revolution of 1917, the Civil War, foreign intervention, and the situation that culminated in the rise of Stalin. Part 3 analyzes the results and the price the Soviet people paid for industrialization and collectivization, the various aspects of Stalin's dictatorship, and the changes in the USSR since Stalin's death.

Obviously this is not an exhaustive work, nor was it written for the specialist. It is, however, clear and informative in stating its main thesis, which argues that Russia experienced no great gloom before the October Revolution (as claimed by the critics of the tsarist regime) and, conversely, that she has enjoyed no rosy situation since the Bolshevik seizure of power in 1917 (as contended by the admirers of the Soviet experiment). This theme is not new. It is, however, well argued here, and also well documented.

Although sound, the work is not without shortcomings. The most glaring is the failure to examine various aspects of foreign policy of Imperial Russia as well as of the Soviet Union. This omission is unfortunate, because it not only creates an imbalance in an otherwise well-organized work but it fails to take note of the influence foreign policy has historically exerted on domestic events and vice versa.

The volume has also several factual errors. On page 168, GPU is translated as "gosoudarstvenny politichesky ouezd." It should be "gosudarstvennoe politicheskoe upravlenie." Likewise, in a chart on page 169 Brezhnev is listed as having reached the topmost plateau of the party structure in 1956. Actually he became an alternate delegate to the Presidium at the Nineteenth Party Congress in October 1952. These errors are minor and should not distract the reader from a sound work.

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ALEKSANDER HERCEN. By *Wiktoria* and *René Sliwowski*. *Ludzie Żywi*, vol. 27. Warsaw: Państwowy Instytut Wydawniczy, 1973. 670 pp. 70 zł.

The present study is the result of the cooperative effort of an extraordinary husband and wife team, he a literary scholar and she a historian, both already well known in Poland and abroad for the high quality of their scholarly publications.

With regard to Herzen the Sliwowskis have done yeoman's service in more ways than one. Theirs is the first study of his entire life and work to appear in any