

STUDIES IN RUSSIAN-AMERICAN COMMERCE, 1820–1860. By *Walther Kirchner*. Studien zur Geschichte Osteuropas, vol. 19. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1975. xii, 265 pp. Tables. Illus. Appendixes. 68 Dglds.

In aggregate, Russian-American commerce in the forty years before the American Civil War was declining and relatively unimportant, although each nation bought from or supplied to the other significant amounts of cotton, sugar, tobacco, hemp and flax and their products, and to a lesser extent, iron and tallow. The main aspects of this trading relationship, claimed to be *sui generis*, are covered in Kirchner's book. About half of the volume is a valuable discussion of trade and shipping statistics. The remainder concerns port conditions, the chief entrepreneurs engaged in trade, and the treaty of 1832 (which Kirchner argues was of little influence).

Apparently because of different methods of valuation (c.i.f., f.o.b.) both countries simultaneously show years of bilateral trade surpluses or deficits. In addition, the unknown size of indirect trade (for example, U.S. cotton via England), smuggling, and large unrecorded items, generally on government account, all make the official record defective. Some tentative suggestions about the magnitudes of these omissions in particular cases are put forward, but they do not alter substantially the impression of the relative unimportance of the trade. (The statement, on page 3, that Russia gained more because her American trade accounted for a larger share of her total trade than vice versa, is nonsense.)

In a work depending, as this does, on the presentation of data, it is annoying to have three different ways of writing numbers over ten thousand, and two for decimal numbers (see table 9 for both).

Apart from general economic changes, the chief explanations of the course of trade are to be found in particular influences on particular products. An obvious example is the rise of American cotton exports; less clear-cut are the improvement in the quality of American iron and the decline in that of Russian hemp. Prices are dismissed as unimportant, in a rather off-hand way, and tariffs are given a very minor role. We are left to speculate whether the patterns of tariff duties exhibited a "country bias," that is, whether tariffs were particularly harsh on the products of especial interest to the other. Certainly much was heard in the ante-bellum tariff debates of the lowly paid serf and the need to protect American hemp products.

In a number of instances, Kirchner remarks on the lack of enterprise on both sides, of opportunities lost and of ventures never made. The trade did not grow as it should, or could, have. His discussion of the leading figures, perforce, concentrates on those successful in a risky business. The comments critical of the reliance on middlemen of other nations are, therefore, cautiously made. It is surprising, however, in view of the emphasis on individuals and their motivations, to be told that "the United States had to make the greatest efforts to supply services in order to make up for the drain on bullion reserves" (p. 88).

The book is well presented and bound, and in a readable style despite a topic not "spectacular or romantic."

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RUSSISCHES TAGESBUCH, 1916–1918. By *Nora Gräfin Kinsky*. Introduction by *Fürstin Gina von Liechtenstein*. Edited by *Hans Graf Huyn*. Stuttgart: Seewald Verlag, 1976. 280 pp. Illus. DM 28.

During the First World War, Austria-Hungary, Germany, and Russia allowed Red Cross missions to inspect their respective prisoner of war camps. Countess Nora Kinsky, as an Austro-Hungarian Red Cross representative, was sent to Russia for

this purpose and arrived in Petrograd in July 1916. She remained in Russia two years and left a record of her experiences which has been edited and published as *Russisches Tagesbuch, 1916–1918*.

Kinsky's odyssey began with a tour of Siberia, accompanied by members of the Danish and Russian Red Cross. Her observations on the conditions in the prisoner of war camps were transmitted to the war ministry in Vienna. Unfortunately, only brief and general references are contained in the diary concerning food, housing, clothing, hospital care, morale, and nationality problems in the camps. She is equally brief about the March revolution in Petrograd. She had returned to the capital in February 1917, was aware of the growing strikes and demonstrations, and witnessed the end of the tsarist regime. However, she provided no extensive commentary on the political change or its significance.

With single-minded determination, Kinsky sought approval from the Provisional Government to proceed to Astrakhan where nurses were needed and where her brother and future husband were being transferred as prisoners of war. Once in Astrakhan, and until she returned to Vienna in June 1918, the revolution gradually impinged on Kinsky's health, safety, and medical work. Entries concerning food shortages, inflation, demonstrations, and strikes appear in her diary with greater frequency, especially after August 1917. In 1918, the hospital in which she worked was endangered by street-fighting between the Bolsheviks and their opponents for control of Astrakhan. She left the city in March, but her return to Petrograd and Vienna was hampered by the disintegration of authority, the mass movement of soldiers and civilians, and the breakdown of communications in southern Russia.

The diary portrays clearly the dedication of an aristocratic woman to her humanitarian mission. She was patient and assertive in dealing with Russian officials. Enveloped by revolution, she accepted deprivations in food and housing and carried on her medical duties despite official harassment and the deterioration of her health. The singular commitment to her mission limited her concern with the forces, issues, and political groups which shaped Russia after 1917. Nevertheless, portions of the diary provide a unique glimpse into the conditions in Russia as civil war approached.

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VELIKII OKTIABR' I PROLETARSKAIA MORAL'. By *V. F. Shishkin*.  
Moscow: Izdatel'stvo "Mysl'," 1976. 262 pp. 1.01 rubles.

This is the second installment of Shishkin's history of proletarian morality, the first being his *Tak skladyvalas' revoliutsionnaia moral'* (Moscow, 1967) which deals with the period 1860–1917 and is richer and more interesting than the volume under review. Neither aspires to provide a moral history of the proletariat—a subject replete with exciting social and psychological perspectives—but merely to trace, by means of programmatic utterances, the shaping of a "proletarian morality." *Velikii Oktiabr'* is concerned with the factory workers of the great industrial centers of Russia in 1917 and early 1918, with some material on peasants in uniform and in the villages. Shishkin examines class solidarity, Soviet patriotism, proletarian internationalism, self-discipline on the job and in the ranks, sobriety, respect for efficiency and socialist property, political consciousness, and workers' relations with foes, leaders, and allies (including peasants and women) as reflected in their economic, political, cultural, and everyday behavior. The book is not, like Marcuse's work on Soviet ethics, an abstract discussion of values, but rather draws its arguments from the life and activities of workers' clubs, cultural circles, unions, soviets, factory committees, regiments, and Red Guard units.

The author uses a wide range of newspapers, archival materials, memoirs, letters, and other documents to apply his analysis to such diverse and problematic topics as