

COMECON: PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS. NATO-Directorate of Economic Affairs, series no. 6. Brussels: NATO-Directorate of Economic Affairs, 1977. 282 pp.

*Comecon: Progress and Prospects* presents the papers given at a 1977 colloquium sponsored by NATO's Directorate of Economic Affairs. The collection evaluates Comecon integration by treating such basic issues as: How well integrated is Comecon relative to full economic merger among its members? Has significant integration occurred since the 1971 Complex Program? What are the specific integrative features in Comecon? What is the role of the Soviet Union, which dominates the organization economically, politically, and militarily?

Chapters by Weisskopf, Smith, and Lascelles, which consider the past and future evolution of Comecon, generally conclude that the council is still far from comprehensive integration and that the Complex Program has not had a particularly great impact. Marer and Fallenbuchl sketch CMEA trade relations which are marked by a radial pattern of especially strong links between the USSR as the dominant center and the other smaller states. Soviet-East European trade, furthermore, manifests a substantial complementarity in which Soviet raw materials are exchanged for East European industrial products. As outlined in the Bethkenhagen and Smith contributions, growing East European dependence on Soviet raw materials, especially energy, has led to recent joint projects and agreements which have the potential to promote further integration through supranational planning. Jacobsen, Machowski, and Joseph examine, respectively, Comecon banks (the IBEC and IIB), international economic organizations, and standardization efforts. They indicate that none of these organs plays a strongly integrative role. Probably the most important reason for this is the well-known CMEA failure to provide market (or alternative) "rational" criteria for economic decisions, and this problem becomes very evident in Lemoine's analysis of price structure and pricing policies during the history of CMEA. Other potential problems for integration derive from growing trade with and indebtedness to the West as described by Cviic and Lascelles and from the decline in the improvement of living standards found by Bush, although the ties with developing countries examined by Knirsch seem to have little effect on CMEA integration. In sum, as Weisskopf concludes, "It seems that each COMECON country, far from seeking comprehensive integration with its partners, is planning and proceeding on its own" (p. 31).

Two additional chapters would have been valuable: (1) a general treatment of the political and economic objectives of the various CMEA nations and organizations, and (2) an empirical evaluation of the progress in specialization agreements. Overall though, the book provides a worthwhile analysis of the fundamental features of Comecon and should be of interest to both economists and political scientists.

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ZEMLJE SEV-A U SVETSKOJ PRIVREDI. By *Edita Stojić-Imamović*. Belgrade: Institut za Međunarodnu Politiku i Privredu, 1976. 215 pp.

In recent years the countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) have been engaged in efforts to expand the degree of economic cooperation and integration with one another. In addition, however, they have also greatly increased their involvement in the world economy and their economic ties with non-socialist countries outside the CMEA. In *Zemlje SEV-a u svetskoj privredi* (*The CMEA Countries in the World Economy*), Dr. Edita Stojić-Imamović of the Institute for International Politics and Economics in Belgrade presents a concise examination of the development of both of these processes. The author begins her analysis