

lent work done by the Polish and Yugoslav sociologists, provide us with the best macrocosm of sociological research dealing with the Eastern European peasantry.

If there is a single weakness of the volume, it is perhaps the rather scanty treatment given to countries other than Poland and Yugoslavia. Significant studies dealing with the Hungarian or Slovak peasantry have been omitted either because they are not available in this country or because they were omitted by the East European academies and sociological institutes contributing to the collection. This, however, is not a major fault, and if it indeed is a fault, it is not that of the compilers. *East European Peasantries* is a seminal bibliography and students of East European peasants must be very grateful for the conscientious efforts of the editors.

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STRAFRECHTSANWENDUNG UND RECHTSHILFE ZWISCHEN BEIDEN DEUTSCHEN STAATEN: GRUNDLAGEN, ENTWICKLUNG UND RECHTSPOLITISCHE ASPEKTE EINER NEUORDNUNG DES STRAFRECHTSVERKEHRS ZWISCHEN BUNDESREPUBLIK UND DDR. By *Herwig Roggemann*. Gesamtdeutsche Probleme, 7. Hannover: Niedersächsischen Landeszentrale für Politische Bildung, 1975. 124 pp. Paper.

DIE STAATSORDNUNG DER SOWJETUNION. 2nd revised and enlarged edition. Edited and translated by *Herwig Roggemann*. Die Gesetzgebung der sozialistischen Staaten, 1. Berlin: Berlin Verlag, 1973. 326 pp. DM 25, paper.

DIE STAATSORDNUNG DER DDR. 2nd revised and enlarged edition. Edited by *Herwig Roggemann*. Die Gesetzgebung der sozialistischen Staaten, 5. Berlin: Berlin Verlag, 1974. 430 pp. DM 28, paper.

The three books under review have all appeared after a fundamental change occurred in the German situation, which is central in the European system. Thus they provide information on the contemporary political system in Europe, in which divided Germany plays the role of the archstone holding the system together in some kind of a balance. In treaties with the Soviet Union (August 8, 1970), Poland (December 7, 1970), and the German Democratic Republic (December 21, 1972), West Germany acknowledged and accepted the political configuration of Eastern Europe, including new frontiers with Poland and the partition of the German nation into two states. The treaty with the German Democratic Republic also provided a new framework for closer cooperation between the two German states, divided not only by their social, economic, and political systems, but also by the tensions in relations between the European East and West (cf. the foreword and introduction to the *Strafrechtsanwendung*).

In the general perspective of the three studies reviewed here the central place belongs to the monograph on relations between the two Germanies in the area of criminal law enforcement and mutual legal assistance. This study deals with only a fraction of the new regime established under the 1972 treaty, but relations in the area of criminal law enforcement and legal assistance are highly indicative of the nature of the bond established between a socialist and free enterprise country. It is obvious that social and political interests protected by the criminal law of the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic are diametrically opposed in certain areas. Furthermore, both countries have gone through a period of bitter political conflict, centering on the aspiration of each German state to represent the historical German state and the true interests of the German nation. These aspirations led to conflicting

doctrines concerning the extraterritorial effects of the criminal law in the two Germanies, doctrines which the treaty of 1972 was to redefine. In terms of legal formulation Roggemann sees the evolution of relations between the legal systems of these dual German states as a transition from interprovincial conflicts to international conflicts governed by the principles of international criminal law. Whether this transition will occur is still uncertain. The book does not indicate that the attitudes of the West German and East German courts has changed following the signing of the treaty, but Roggemann does note that West German jurisprudential writers have come out in favor of the new approach in criminal law enforcement, seeing it in terms of relations between two members of the international community (pp. 12-56).

The other two books are collections of documents on the Soviet and East German state order. They add perspective to Roggemann's monograph on *Straftrrechtsanwendung* by illustrating features of the Soviet and East German regimes which determine the scope and degree of cooperation in the administration of justice between East and West Germany. Both volumes are divided into sections dealing with the organization of the Communist Party, constitutional order, promulgation of laws, central and local government, elections, and protection of rights. Each section is preceded by an introduction which combines brevity with encyclopedic precision. The introductions are very useful for the reader seeking basic information on the Soviet and East German regimes. Although the material in the two collections is accurate and informative, the author regrettably has not seen the need to point out differences between the Soviet and East German regimes, even though they differ markedly in areas such as administration of justice and labor relations.

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GERMAN AND POLE: NATIONAL CONFLICT AND MODERN MYTH. By Harry Kenneth Rosenthal. Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1976. x, 175 pp. \$10.00.

The title of this book is somewhat misleading for it is not a study of the German-Polish conflict, nor even a presentation of these two peoples' opposing images of each other. It is, rather, only an account, well documented although not especially well written, of the opinions which the Germans have held of the Poles throughout history and particularly since the end of the eighteenth century.

Still, it is an important little book. The German-Polish conflict has been one of the international problems which has profoundly affected the course of events in Europe on several occasions. By systematically reviewing the changing image of the Poles as held by the Germans, Dr. Rosenthal helps us to understand the roots of the conflict. With the detachment of an outside observer (one that is not, however, entirely free from the naïve optimism which often characterizes American writings about European politics), he examines the existing evidence and carefully dissects myth from reality.

The author rejects the stereotype which holds that the Nazi slaughters in Poland during the Second World War represented a culmination of a historically persistent German hatred of the Poles and he successfully supports his contention. Yet, Dr. Rosenthal's overall conclusions are pessimistic. German attitudes toward the Poles have fallen into two categories: the Germans living in the western part of the country were generally indifferent toward the Poles; while the Germans in the east, in close contact with the Poles, despised them and, not necessarily because of a feeling of superiority but often because of fear, tended to adopt a contemptuous view of their eastern neighbors. One searches in vain in this book for evidence of any positive view