

ysis, certain ultimate historical decisions that determine the moral even more than the material fate of future generations; such decisions the political leaders of even a small nation cannot 'rationally' or 'logically' abdicate to their Great Power patrons without simultaneously surrendering their own integrity." In another passage Rothschild observes: "What Beneš lacked, in the final recourse, was not analytical keenness but moral toughness."

A dimension of historical reality which has been charted out relatively less sharply is that zone between power politics and demography which includes cultural and educational traditions and institutions, peasant and labor organizations, the press, and so forth. The material contained in the chapter on culture might have been more effective if it had been parceled out among the national chapters, like the treatment given to politics and economics. Perhaps differences between individual countries, such as the absence or incidence of popular anti-Semitism, might be better understood if culture and society were given treatment equal to that given politics and economy.

In scope, depth of analysis, and, not the least, fairness and objectivity, this book has no rivals as far as the area of East Central Europe is concerned. It will certainly become required reading in all area-related courses, and one hopes that it will also win a place for itself on reading lists for courses in modern Europe, as well as for those diverse comparative, topical, or problem-oriented courses which are now taught under various auspices in different departments.

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ENVIRONMENTAL DETERIORATION IN THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE. Edited by *Ivan Volgyes*. New York: Praeger Publishers, 1974. xvi, 168 pp. \$14.00.

While the momentum of the environmental movement in the West seems to have slowed a bit, it appears to be accelerating in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. This is to be applauded because the challenge there is as great or greater than that which exists in the West. Unfortunately, most Westerners are still uninformed about just how serious the problem is in Communist countries.

Environmental Deterioration in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, while repeating and even republishing much of the material that has become available about the Soviet Union, does offer some new material in English about Eastern Europe. The chapter by Gyorgy Enyedi is a forthright statement about conditions in Hungary. David Kromm reports on a public opinion survey which he supervised and which, among other things, revealed a striking awareness by low income residents of the pollution problem of Ljubljana, Yugoslavia. (It would be interesting to conduct a similar survey among low income residents of an American city for it is usually assumed that awareness of the problem among low income groups is relatively low.)

Leslie Dienes provides details for Hungary, Poland, and Czechoslovakia, and shows just how serious environmental disruption is in these three countries. For example, Budapest, as of 1972, dumped as much as two-thirds of its sewage into the Danube without even primary treatment. Furthermore, because most of the homes in Eastern Europe are heated with poor quality soft coal, the level of sulfur concentration in the air during the winter is far above the levels in most

other parts of Europe and the parts of the USSR where central heating is used. Dienes also shows how electricity in North Bohemia is underpriced and how the local authority there fails to recover the social costs connected with the generation of that electricity.

Except for the section by Ihor Stebelsky on soil erosion and dust storms, and the section by Philip Micklin on the Caspian Sea, much of the material on the USSR either has already appeared in print (and sometimes in the same articles by the same authors) or is not especially insightful. Indeed, at times the material is contradictory, and the question arises as to how carefully the editor read the separate chapters. For example, Craig ZumBrunnen, on page 81, argues that some previous studies of Lake Baikal overstate the extent of its pollution. However, on page 5, the editor says, "Lake Baikal is nearly ruined from pollution. . . ." This is incomparably more of an overstatement than the citation ZumBrunnen portrays as alarmist.

It is not only Volgyes who tends to mislead. ZumBrunnen, in his essay on Lake Baikal, leaves the impression that the authorities will build a bypass for the emissions from the Baikalsk cellulose plant (p. 94). In actual fact, no matter how serious the inadequacies of the present treatment system, it is highly unlikely that such a bypass will be built. It is simply too expensive.

The reader also puzzles over ZumBrunnen's concern about "the workers of Buriatia, 30% of whom are directly employed by the timber industry." These workers, he suggests, would be affected if the cellulose plants were not built because he seems to assume that their jobs depend on the plant. However, the source he cites for the number of workers involved appeared in 1963 before the cellulose plants were built. Presumably, their jobs were created independently of the plants and, therefore, would not be affected by the failure to build the plants. Similarly, the reader puzzles over ZumBrunnen's lack of concern for the Baikal-Amur Mainline Railroad which promises to open up large portions of the shore of Lake Baikal to intensive industrial mineral development. All the pious promises to the contrary and all three laws regulating the use of the area around Lake Baikal will not stop the slow degradation of Lake Baikal as long as the Soviet government continues to put economic development ahead of ecological considerations.

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THE PSYCHOLOGY OF EAST-WEST TRADE: ILLUSIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES. By *Zygmunt Nagorski, Jr.* Foreword by *Jean-François Revel*. New York: Mason & Lipscomb, 1974. xxv, 228 pp. \$9.95.

East-West trade is not a new subject. Some would suggest not only that it has been overreported, but that it is not even an important subject—for example, trade between the United States and the Soviet Union continues to be an insignificant share of the Gross National Products of both nations. Mr. Nagorski, however, has written a stimulating book in which he both provides useful new perspectives and identifies the factors contributing to the importance of the subject. The subtitle of the book, "Illusions and Opportunities," provides an accurate guide to Nagorski's approach. He finds the new relationship neither a bonanza for Western traders, nor a quick answer to Eastern planners' attempts to overcome economic backwardness. Yet, he sees mutually beneficial business for both sides.