

Professor Pomper's interesting biography of Nečaev attempts to explore the psychology of the Russian revolutionary and, through him, of Nechaevism. Therefore, not every aspect of his life (e.g., his relations with Balkan revolutionaries) is treated. The authorship of the "Catechism of a Revolutionary" is dealt with briefly, the author only presenting the results of an older, already published, analysis by himself. Suffice it to say that he sees the document in question as the result of a close co-operation between Nečaev and Bakunin, in which the latter contributed more than just his editorial skills. Nečaev's theories are found to be akin to those of Černyševskij and Lavrov, and even the type of revolutionary he represents is considered to be unique only to a limited extent. For, although the "sadistic and masochistic impulses" in Nečaev's "ego-defensive strategy" were idiosyncratic, Nechaevism, which constitutes "a striking lesson in the disastrous possibilities of revolutionary politics", was also practised by twentieth-century revolutionary movements. It "is in miniature the expression of a vast human problem", which, we would add, has not such an exclusively psycho-political nature as presented here. Among the wide variety of primary material used by Professor Pomper are sources in Soviet custody.

#### OTHER BOOKS

- BUSLOV, K. P. *Social'no-istoričeskoe razvitie klassov v SSSR. "Nauka i tehnika"*, Minsk 1979. 344 pp.
- JURGANOV, O. B. [i] N. A. POLJAKOV. *Avtoportret bez retuši. Psiholog kommentiruet dnevnik rabočego. "Belarus"*, Minsk 1979. 192 pp.

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