

KULTURPOLITIK DER SOWJETUNION. Edited by *Oskar Anweiler* and *Karl-Heinz Ruffmann*. Kröners Taschenausgabe, vol. 429. Stuttgart: Alfred Kröner Verlag, 1973. xxiv, 400 pp. DM 22.

Although we have an immense scholarly literature on the arts, education, and certain aspects of cultural policy in the Soviet Union, it remains difficult to find this material synthesized into a single convenient volume. A group of German scholars has recently sought to remedy the deficiency with a collection of extended essays, and the effort is remarkable, not least because it does achieve synthesis despite the involvement of seven authors.

A guiding conception is needed to achieve this synthesis, and it is set forth with admirable clarity in the introduction by Karl-Heinz Ruffmann. He penetratingly notes both the problem of cultural backwardness and the seriousness with which a new postrevolutionary Bolshevik leadership regarded that problem. There is a difference between accepting a given ideological position and acknowledging the commitment of others to it; and Ruffmann's way of treating Leninist perceptions of cultural issues—by giving full credence to the seriousness of the Bolshevik approach to these problems—avoids distortions commonly resulting when observers stand resolutely outside their subject and rely upon implicit antagonism rather than explicit criticism.

All the contributors to the book are worthy of mention. The opening, and by far the longest, contribution is Oskar Anweiler's study of educational policy. This is followed by Klaus Meyer's treatment of science policy, Peter Hübner's review of policy toward literature, and Hans-Jürgen Drengenberg's study of policy toward the arts. The two concluding sections, on somewhat more unusual topics, are Bernhard Dilger's examination of national and minority cultures in the USSR and Wolfgang Kasack's survey of Soviet cultural policies in international relations. The omission of religion as a topic is explained by lack of space for an aspect of "negative cultural policy"; the slighting of the performing arts is not explained.

Most of the contributors base the surveys offered in this volume on earlier and more detailed original research. But the fact that their contributions are surveys in no way diminishes the value of the book. Given the informing conceptualization that unifies the different parts, the volume provides a synthesis that undoubtedly exceeds the capabilities of any single scholar, and it illuminates, in comparative perspective, a vast range of vitally important policies that have unfolded since the Bolshevik seizure of power.

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SOCJALIZM W PAŃSTWACH ŚRODKOWEJ I POŁUDNIOWO-WSCHODNIEJ EUROPY: SPOŁECZNO-POLITYCZNE PROBLEMY REWOLUCJI SOCJALISTYCZNEJ I BUDOWNICTWA SOCJALIZMU. By *Jerzy Muszyński*. Warsaw: Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, 1975. 458 pp. 42 zł., paper.

This long, verbose, and unbelievably repetitious book consists of two parts: part 1—"Marxist-Leninist Theory of Socialist Revolution in the Practice of Revolutionary Events in the States of Central and Southeastern Europe"; and part 2—"Po-