

authorities as a milestone on CMEA's road to economic integration. The author attempts to determine whether the Program is "integrationist" as its title suggests, and to evaluate the chances of the organization to realize the proposed objectives.

The book begins with a description of the concept and institutional framework of CMEA, and presents an interesting comparison of the economic development and of the different levels of industrialization in the member countries. The main part of the volume is an interpretation of the means of integration as suggested by the Program, and includes such topics as mutual consultations, coordination of planning, technical cooperation, and the exchange of findings of research, intra-CMEA trade, financial ties between the members, supranational organizations and enterprises, as well as industrial cooperation.

Almost three years after the book was written, the rather optimistic conclusion of the author regarding future economic integration of the CMEA countries and increased "opening" of the organization to exchanges with the outside world cannot yet be verified. However, the harsh critique of actual integration and cooperation in Eastern Europe (*Közgazdasági szemle*, 21, no. 9 [1974]) by Hungary's top economic politician, Rezső Nyers, raises some doubts.

The volume includes nineteen charts, an appendix with brief but detailed information on structure and functions of fifteen different intergovernmental organizations of CMEA, as well as the text of the Complex Program. The bibliography lists 161 titles of monographs, articles, documents, and statistical reports mostly in French, English, and Russian, published up to 1972. The index seems small for this complicated subject, but an extensive and detailed table of contents facilitates the use of the volume as a handy reference book.

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ESSAYS ON PLANNING, TRADE AND INTEGRATION IN EASTERN EUROPE. By *Jozef M. P. van Brabant*. Rotterdam: Rotterdam University Press, 1974. ix, 310 pp. 59.50 Dfl.

The book consists of twelve papers, all but one of which has been previously published by the author in several German, French, and Swedish journals or symposia. As with most collections of this kind, the volume is very difficult to review in fairness to the author and to the potential reader. The greatest value of the collection is a rather extensive bibliography, close to three hundred references on the issue of East European economic integration, which is provided in the form of footnotes to the author's analysis. Apart from the bibliographical value, however, the book offers little, and it is deficient in both presentation and analysis.

The presentation of the material is disappointing. Despite the author's claim to have revised the papers by deleting overlapping passages and completely re-writing some parts to "clarify" minor obscurities, the volume contains a horrendous amount of repetitious and mostly semantic argumentation. Furthermore, the volume lacks even a remote balance, promised by the title of the book, between the analysis of the three major topics—planning, trade, and integration. In fact, there is little analysis of either planning or trade, let alone the relationship between the two, that would benefit the reader, whether a specialist in the subject matter or not. The book's concern is almost exclusively with "integration."

Regrettably, the author's analysis of integration suffers from many shortcomings. Semantic attacks on the meaning of various concepts of integration and related ideas advanced by East European writers, the absence of a clear-cut concept of integration in terms of which one can evaluate the progress, or lack thereof, toward integration within the CMEA countries, failure to define at least a range of *net* potential benefits which CMEA countries might derive from a greater degree of integration, the condemnation of economic planners who prefer preservation of political independence or separateness and autarkic growth strategy for their respective countries to integration, and the advocacy of forced integration by the leading member of CMEA—all detract from the usefulness of this volume.

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TECHNOLOGY IN COMECON: ACCELERATION OF TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS THROUGH ECONOMIC PLANNING AND THE MARKET. By J. Wilczynski. New York: Praeger Publishers, 1974. xviii, 379 pp. Tables. Diagrams. \$22.50.

Professor Wilczynski's new book is crammed with information, including fifty-nine tables and eight diagrams, about technology in countries belonging to Comecon (excluding Cuba), and seen primarily from the viewpoint of an economist rather than a technologist. (For instance, figures such as ownership of television sets, indicating the relative position of Comecon countries on a world scale, characterize levels of economic rather than technical development.) The author has read extensively in the regional literature but seems less familiar with, or interested in, Western analyses: the footnotes (there is no bibliography) do not include Granick or Sutton. The twelve chapters focus on particular sectors of economy or technology, international cooperation, and ideological-technological aspects, and there is an attempt to equalize the space devoted to the various countries.

The book will be useful mainly for reference, and possibly as a textbook for a not readily identifiable course. Methodologically, it effects no advance—in a field which especially needs methodological advances. The factual details, not all of which are particularly relevant, provide background against which the capability of planning, or the market, to accelerate technological progress may be considered, but the question of which system has the greater capability is not resolved. Indeed, chapter 10 does not demonstrate that “in most fields the Comecon countries are well below Western technological standards” (as claimed on p. 296), although that may well be a true assessment. The final five pages of the book examine how scientific and technical progress can contribute to achieving the ideals of full communism, but this ambitious attempt within so brief a space is inevitably a failure. Although a properly critical approach is always applied to the material, as if in compensation, generalizing passages occasionally seem to be lifted from standard socialist texts (for example, p. 349, lines 18–21), or are somewhat sweeping. Inaccuracies are very few, but the USSR is given sixteen republics (p. 145), while an increase of 300 percent would correspond to a multiplication of *four* times (pp. 24 and 28).

Despite these shortcomings, this is a valuable and timely multipurpose compilation.

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