

THE USSR. By *John C. Dewdney*. Studies in Industrial Geography, vol. 3. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1976. xvi, 262 pp. Tables. Figures. \$19.50.

In this introductory textbook on the current industrial geography of the USSR, John Dewdney has provided a useful review of the development and distribution of the leading sectors of the Soviet industrial economy. The book is divided into three sections. The first of these encompasses the environmental, resource, transport, and population factors related to industrialization in the USSR. The remainder of the book examines specific industrial sectors and regional contrasts in Soviet industry.

The text contains a substantial amount of factual information about Soviet industry which is presented in an encyclopedic manner, along the lines used by Theodore Shabad in his inventories of Soviet industrial resources. Thus, on the positive side, the text is a useful reference for up-to-date locational and production data of industrial sectors and regions. In addition, the chapter on regionalization is a useful survey of an important theme.

A negative consequence of this industrial-inventory approach is an unparalleled degree of dullness resulting from the stupefying citation of hundreds of place names, technological processes, and industrial products. These factual data are difficult to evaluate because they are either unrelated or only linked in a cursory manner to broader policy issues of development, location theory, and the planning process. Moreover, they usually do not contain any reference to comparative costs. The most critical need is for unifying concepts, problems, and methodologies, or, in other words, valid criteria for the inclusion of information. The goal of providing a reliable survey of the thousands of industrial activities in the USSR and their diverse technologies is a fruitless scholarly endeavor. An additional difficulty which is apparent in this text is the undesirability of isolating industrial development from such related activities as agriculture or urbanization.

In summary, this text is a convenient source for selected industrial data but is seriously marred by the author's apparent incognizance of the conceptual and methodological growth of modern geography.

ROBERT N. TAAFFE  
*Indiana University*

THE THIRD WAY: MARXIST-LENINIST THEORY AND MODERN INDUSTRIAL SOCIETY. By *Ota Šik*. Translated by *Marian Sling*. White Plains, N.Y. and London: International Arts and Sciences Press and Wildwood House, 1976. 431 pp. \$25.00.

With the volume under review, Professor Šik has joined the growing effort to liberate Marx from Soviet captivity and claim him for the forces of political as well as social and economic emancipation. The author does not see the task of dissociating Marxian thought from Soviet realities and ideology as "a return to the origins," pure, authentic, and unadulterated, but as a liberation from dogmatic attitudes altogether. Hence, whenever Šik confronts "official Marxism" with Marx, he makes a point of confronting Marx with newer insights and contemporary facts as he sees them. At the same time, Šik keeps his distance from Western economic theoreticians, whom he likes to correct with the help of Marx wherever he considers Marx superior. He manages in this way to strike the likable posture of an independent maverick, rather than of some sort of convert.

To place emphasis on the political significance of Šik's contribution is to express the opinion that the strictly economic portions of the work, which take up a good deal of space, are not always entirely successful. Viewed through the eyes of mainstream Western economists, the examination of contemporary capitalism, especially