

subjected this position to detailed criticism (Iu. M. Kozlov, *Predmet sovetskogo administrativnogo prava*, Moscow, 1967, pp. 104–21). In his latest book Petrov counterrebutts Kozlov, arguing among other points that the standard view represents an outgrowth of Soviet jurisprudence of the 1920s, which in turn was influenced by the “bourgeois” legal distinction between “public” and “private” law, a dichotomy which classifies the legal relationship between two private citizens exclusively under civil law. This debate, which is not untypical of theoretical differences among jurists within the Soviet legal profession, will no doubt go on.

The last two chapters of the book (chaps. 6 and 7) will probably be most interesting to the nonlegal specialist. Chapter 6 is a description of how administrative legality is secured in the Soviet Union. That is, how the Communist Party, the Supreme Soviet, and the Council of Ministers of the USSR, the procuracy, the judiciary, and the community all participate in various ways to ensure that the parties to the administrative legal relationship obey the law. Petrov concludes his book with a now familiar feature of post-Stalin jurisprudence—the projection that with the growth of legal consciousness and the decline of lawbreaking, administrative legal relationships will gradually be transformed into Communist self-administration (*samoupravlenie*) as part of the general withering away of the function of legal coercion in Soviet society. However, he adds the caveat that administrative legal relationships will continue to be necessary under “contemporary conditions of administrative and disciplinary misdemeanors” (p. 151).

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THE ECONOMICS OF SOVIET MERCHANT-SHIPING POLICY. By
Robert E. Athay. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1971. xiii,
150 pp. \$7.50.

The spectacular expansion of the Soviet merchant fleet since the mid-1950s is one of the sensational developments which have sent ripples as far as American and Australian shores. The book under review sheds a good deal of light on the motives, ways, and means underlying this development and its implications for capitalist countries. It is the first book published in English which provides a systematic analysis of the economic foundations of Soviet shipping policy. The study is based on primary sources, and although it is in a specialized field, it will have broader appeal to businessmen, economists, and political scientists interested in Soviet and East-West studies in general. Dr. Athay has carved out a niche for himself among Western specialists on Soviet economics.

As the author indicates from the start, “this study assesses the extent to which the heavy commitment of resources to the Soviet merchant fleet has been worthwhile from the standpoint of economic efficiency” (p. 3). It is shown that this expansion has been justified on economic grounds, quite apart from substantial benefits of a political and strategic nature.

The limitations of the study are set primarily by the availability of published data and the problems associated with their interpretation. The author confuses depreciation charges and capital charges, partly because he uses data of pre-1966 vintage (the year in which capital charges were introduced). Since that time some Soviet accounting practices have changed, so that his analysis is now somewhat outdated. The author has succumbed to the old temptation of describing nonsocialist

countries as the "Free World" (Greece, Portugal, Rhodesia, South Africa, and Spain included), which does not befit an otherwise objective study. The overall conclusion emerging from the book is that the Soviet merchant fleet does not present any serious threat to other major maritime powers, even though aggressive tactics have been, and are likely to be, resorted to on occasion.

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CLASS AND SOCIETY IN SOVIET RUSSIA. By *Mervyn Matthews*. New York: Walker and Company, 1972. xviii, 366 pp. \$12.50.

Both for what it accomplishes and for what it leaves undone this volume should mark a turning point in Western studies of Soviet social structure. Drawing heavily on the rich harvest of Soviet sociological studies of the 1960s, as well as on census data and information in Soviet statistical handbooks, Matthews presents much of the available evidence on income inequality, differences in life styles, occupational prestige rankings, and social composition of students at different levels of schooling. Although this book was apparently completed before the author could make use of some very valuable recent Soviet studies of social structure (the works of Shkaratan, Arutiunian, Rutkevich, and Gordon published in 1970-72), Matthews's volume makes it clear that a firm empirical basis for the analysis of Soviet social stratification now exists.

Unfortunately the author is much more absorbed in presenting and summarizing the available data (120 tables worth) than in analyzing them. Although the compulsory reliance on "models" and "analytic frameworks" to organize statistical materials may sometimes be an academic pose rather than a source of illumination, the sheer presentation of evidence of Soviet social and economic inequality also has its limits. This is said not to denigrate the usefulness of Matthews's volume but to suggest that future studies of Soviet social structure may now fruitfully turn to questions which the author does not ask. Why has Soviet income inequality been markedly reduced in recent years? How is Soviet social stratification related to Soviet economic development strategy? How do Soviet occupational prestige rankings and mobility rates compare with those of other industrializing or industrialized countries? It is curious that when Western sociologists had to rely on data drawn from samples of Soviet refugees, they nonetheless confronted some of these questions, while the vastly more abundant data currently available have yet to be used for this purpose.

Although Matthews mainly focuses on social and economic inequality, the volume also includes a useful discussion of recent Soviet demographic trends, a summary of rural-to-urban migration studies, and a heroic attempt to estimate the magnitude of Soviet youth unemployment. The discussion of this last topic might have been enhanced by a more elaborate attempt to explain how both "voluntary" and "involuntary" unemployment of youth of similar skill levels can exist simultaneously on the substantial scale indicated by the author. This section might also have benefited from an attempt to reconcile the chronic Soviet complaints of a labor shortage with the author's characterization of youth unemployment as "very substantial."

Finally, it is difficult to accept Matthews's view that the Soviet admission of "important divisions" (of an economic and social nature) among workers would