

his first volume, is to establish the falsity of the myth of Jewish Bolshevism.

The work provides a multifaceted picture of views on that issue, but Szajkowski's approach, which relies heavily on citations of evidence, fails to deal adequately with the background factors necessary to understand the material. The volume appears, therefore, as a cornucopia of quotes often presented with little balance or discrimination. Nevertheless, Szajkowski's research, if not orderly in presentation, reveals a wealth of material valuable to both scholar and layman. And where he carries a theme through, as in the sections relating anti-Semitism to strikes and the fear of radicals to changes in immigration policy, some good characterization emerges. The notes too are rich (over sixty pages), but reflect, as do many of the brief chapters, an essentially episodic approach to the events, with rare synthetic comment.

The student of Russia can find in this volume much material of interest on the reaction to the Revolution abroad. The student of American history will find, as Szajkowski suggests, evidence on one of the important phenomena of the twentieth century portrayed in its seminal period.

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THE EVOLUTION OF SOVIET POLITICS. By *Robert J. Osborn*. Homewood, Ill.: The Dorsey Press, 1974. xiii, 574 pp. \$10.95.

The world of Soviet politics has always assumed the crucial interdependence of political and economic demands, and the legitimacy of the rulers rests in large part on their efficacy in promoting growth or meeting crises of economic decline. The contribution of Robert Osborn's new textbook on Soviet politics lies primarily in its skillful and comprehensive integration of political and economic issues in Soviet history. He has devoted over two-fifths of his large book to detailed summaries of both economic and political facets of Soviet history, with greatest emphasis on the formative first fifteen years. It is intended that this detailed exposition will enable the student to assess Osborn's assumption that "the important decisions which shaped the Soviet political system as it exists today were made during the first 15 years of Soviet rule, that is, by the end of the First Five-Year Plan in 1932" (p. 21). Osborn argues that numerous "adjustments" but no fundamental alterations have occurred since that time. In looking at the major policy decisions of those early years, he attempts to sort out the relative impact of three criteria—ideological constraints, situational imperatives, and improvisatory moves—which, he asserts, frequently were jelled into subsequent dogma. While the weight given to each determinant cannot be exact, the very process of extracting the components from some of the most important events in recent history will be most instructive for students—who, in many cases, find their learning compartmentalized, with politics and economics segregated. In addition, the student will benefit from a twenty-five-page survey of Soviet history, political, economic, and foreign relations, and four appendixes containing texts of important documents.

Osborn's book is divided into three sections: the first details the road to command of the economy; the second summarizes Party history and methods of Party control and administration; the third discusses agencies for the reshaping of society and forces, such as social stratification and national identity, leading to

differentiation. Because of the emphasis on the early phases of Soviet history, some sections are much more fully and richly detailed than others, and instructors assigning this textbook should be aware of which areas require further amplification. For example, the function and content of *samizdat* might be elaborated both as a covert alternative communications system and, in certain cases, as an expression of national identity, in addition to Osborn's analysis of its legal implications. With the current interest in détente, the role and organization of international law and trade might be included. The structure and functioning of the general educational system, divided between chapters ten and twelve, might be clearer to students with additional explanation, and the work of Soviet sociologists could be used more widely, particularly with respect to social stratification and nationality questions. The changing face of Party composition also would seem to require somewhat greater emphasis in view of its status as uncontested political elite. But these suggestions should not detract from the innovative contribution that Osborn's textbook has made.

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ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SOVIET LAW, 2 vols. Edited by *F. J. M. Feldbrugge*. Documentation Office for East European Law, University of Leiden. Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.: Oceana Publications. Leiden: A. W. Sijthoff, 1973. Vol. 1 (A-L): xii, 429 pp. Vol. 2 (M-Z): iv, 431-774 pp. (343 pp.) \$95.00 for 2 vols.

The *Encyclopedia of Soviet Law* is another piece of evidence supporting a widely shared feeling that non-Soviet scholars can place only limited reliance on the works and opinions of their Soviet colleagues. There are, of course, several reasons for it. First, little of what is written in the Soviet Union is free from propaganda. Second, even if occasionally an objective treatment of Soviet legal institutions may be found in the works of Soviet scholars, there is a problem of semantics. Legal, as well as sociological, terms employed by Soviet scholars are used in a context which gives them a different meaning. It is also important to remember that the idea of unity of Soviet power has worked strangely to blur the delimitations of legislative, judicial, and executive functions. In Western administration of criminal justice, the role of the legislative function is to determine the criminal act because of its social danger. Courts decide individual cases in the context of degree of personal liability, and consider all those circumstances which individualize a criminal act (personality of the defendant, prospects of rehabilitation, and so forth). Administrative organs (prosecution, police health institutions, and so forth) have their role before and after the judicial phase in the case, and are only subsidiary dispensers of justice. In the Soviet Union, *prima facie*, these roles are similarly distributed, but with important deviations. A Western scholar is, therefore, under a duty to scrutinize independently and critically the texts, the practice, and, in particular, the theoretical offerings of his professional brethren in the Soviet Union.

Thus, the *Encyclopedia of Soviet Law* has a unique function in the area of jurisprudence. It tests the claim, made by Soviet scholars and the Soviet government, that Soviet law and its institutions, being the result of a more advanced social order, offer a pattern for imitation to all social environments.