

stresses in its last paragraph the economic progress achieved by Russia on the eve of Peter the Great's reforms.

The gist of the story has been fully told by the author at that point. Having dealt, however, only incidentally in his book with the purely cultural aspects of Muscovite history from 1547 to 1682, and, on the other hand, wishing to give a more general conclusion to the whole Russian history studied by him, Professor Vernadsky has added one more chapter of an interpretive character. This chapter combines a general philosophy of Russian history with, of necessity, a sketchy cultural history of the 135 years studied in the book. The presentation becomes the more thin because flashbacks far back into the Kievan period are rather frequent in this chapter. What is said is certainly interesting and instructive, and that is why one asks for more. The general philosophy of Russian history occupies the first three sections of the chapter: "Preliminary Remarks," "The Pulse of History," and (to a great extent) "The Layers of Old Russian Culture." Professor Vernadsky's Eurasian views are well known and form the basis for these sections. The remaining three sections are on architecture and painting, literature, philosophy and science, and jointly they represent sixteen pages. I have expressed my admiration for Professor Vernadsky's volume, and I consider it a remarkable scholarly endeavor, but in all conscience I would have preferred another final chapter as a coda to his book. All things considered, however, this lack is a minor flaw, against so much merit.

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MIĘDZY TRAKTATEM ANDRUSZOWSKIM A WOJNĄ TURECKĄ:
STOSUNKI POLSKO-ROSYJSKIE, 1667–1672. By *Zbigniew Wójcik*.
Warsaw: Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, 1968. 324 pp. 76 zł.

This is a new study dealing with the period of six eventful years that followed the Treaty of Andrusovo in January 1667 between Poland and Muscovy. During the period under discussion two more treaties were signed by the monarchs of these two countries, the "envoys' treaty" in December 1667, and another, after prolonged negotiations, in April 1672. The last treaty the author calls "the treaty of frustrated hopes," because it promised Poland military help against Turkey and the Ukraine and yet only provoked another war in 1672, which Poland was forced to face alone without any ally, because the Muscovite promises were only empty words.

The study consists of six chapters, five of which are concerned with international relations in Europe, mostly in Eastern Europe. Chapter 4 presents a little digression from the main topic and deals with the election campaign for a new monarch to the Polish throne, which was under way before the abdication of King John Casimir in 1668. Among the numerous candidates was the tsarevich, the son of Aleksei Mikhailovich of Muscovy. This fact contributed a great deal to Poland's favorable "envoys' treaty" in December 1667. In this chapter the author also presents a brief review of political literature dealing with the coming royal election and its candidates.

On the basis of original documents the author presents a colorful picture of the political entanglements that existed in all the countries of Eastern Europe, especially in the Ukraine, in these eventful years. His scholarly approach and the wealth of original Polish, Russian, and Ukrainian documents that he uses objectively in this

study enable him to present readers with a work worthy of the attention of all students interested in the history of Eastern Europe and in that period in particular. The facts brought out describing the Polish endeavors to make Moscow fulfill its obligations, as specified in the Treaty of Andrusovo, show that Russia has not changed her habit of breaking promises. The same could be said about the hostile Muscovite attitude toward foreigners, which has been retained to the present time despite the revolutionary changes in Russia's political system.

The work is a valuable contribution to the history of Eastern Europe because it throws more light on the behind-the-scenes activity of the contemporary diplomacy connected with the partition of the Ukraine and the expansion of Muscovy into the Black Sea region.

Although the author analyzes original documents and quotes them sometimes at great length, the book is so well organized that it can be read with as much pleasure as a novel. There is, however, some confusion in the transliteration of Russian and Ukrainian names. The use of the term "Russia" or "Russian" for this period is also historically incorrect, especially in paraphrasing original sources, where they always appear as "moskovskii" or "Moskovskoye Tsarstvo." The name "Russia" was introduced officially to replace Muscovite tsardom almost half a century later by Peter I.

Another shortcoming of this book is the lack of a bibliography, although there is an ample number of bibliographical footnotes. The work also contains a brief summary in English and a personal name index. Considering the scholarly value of this study, it is rather surprising that it was published as a limited edition of 490 copies only—hardly enough to meet the demands even of the specialists for whom it is primarily designed. It is also worth mentioning that Zbigniew Wójcik is already known as the author of other historical studies entitled *Dzikię pola w ogniu* and *Traktat Andruszowski, 1667*, which are recognized as objective scholarly works. The first deals with Polish-Ukrainian relations in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and the second with Polish-Russian-Ukrainian relations in the same period.

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THE TRAGIC DYNASTY: A HISTORY OF THE ROMANOV. By *John D. Bergamini*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1969. 512 pp. \$10.00.

Recently there has been a flood of books dealing with the Romanovs, including even two independent (and inadequate) translations of the third volume of Kliuchevsky's *Course*. Among them Bergamini's is one of the most tantalizing. The opening introductory chapters evince some understanding, though at third hand, of the main lines of Russian development in the period when the Romanovs were only boyars. Once he has them enthroned as tsars, however, Bergamini loses interest in Russian history and shifts to a series of bare biographical sketches, to each of which, regardless of the degree of its importance, a chapter is devoted. Borrowings from works he had earlier relied on become increasingly rare (and generally without quotation marks). The references given are, with the exception of three books in French (from which Bergamini has made his own translations), exclusively to books in English; most of them are from the antiquated biographies of Bain, from a variety of would-be shockers, or from other inferior works.