

THE VICTORS' DILEMMA: ALLIED INTERVENTION IN THE RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR. By *John Silverlight*. New York: Weybright and Talley, 1970. xxiii, 392 pp. \$10.00.

Mr. Silverlight is an assistant editor of the London *Observer*. He has written a first-rate journalistic account of Allied intervention in the Russian Civil War. The adjectives are important. Although Silverlight is scholarly in his citation of sources, his is not a scholar's book. Rather, it is an account for the general reader, put forward in a style—often employing long excerpts from memoirs and other firsthand accounts—that conveys visual, almost sensual, impressions of the tumultuous events it chronicles.

Such vividness is the book's strength. Its principal weakness is that it is not analytical. We come away from it knowing relatively little about the politics of policy-making within the Allied governments, or indeed about the politics of their societies as a whole which gave rise to anti-Bolshevik policies but which then could not sustain military intervention against the Bolsheviks. We are not told much about *why* governments and individuals acted as they did, although we are given myriad details about *what* they did. In short, Silverlight's narrative cuts a wide swath, but it does not cut deep.

Neither does it plow new ground. There is no information here that we have not had before. Although Silverlight has made limited use of British government archives (in a manner suggesting that he took his leads from published monographical works rather than making a systematic search), his book is largely based on published English-language sources. His substantial bibliography contains two titles in French, all the rest in English. Yet if the specialist will gain little, the general reader will find in Silverlight's book the best general survey of Allied intervention. The only comparable work is William Henry Chamberlin's *The Russian Revolution, 1917–1921* (1935), which, of course, treats a considerably wider range of topics. But much has been published, particularly about the behavior of the Allied governments, in the nearly four intervening decades, and Silverlight draws upon a substantial portion of these more recent publications in bringing us his highly readable survey.

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VLADIMIR IL'ICH LENIN: BIOGRAFICHESKAIA KHRONIKA, 1870–1924. Vol. 1: 1870–1905. Institut marksizma-leninizma pri TsK KPSS. Moscow: Politizdat, 1970. xii, 627 pp. 1.16 rubles.

This biographical chronology of Lenin's life, works, and deeds is the first of presumably four or more volumes, and will form an integral part of Lenin's *Polnoe sobranie sochinenii*, fifth edition. It is the lineal descendant of the brief chronological appendixes to the second, third, and fourth editions of Lenin's *Sochineniia*. Thus it is enormously more detailed than all the previous chronologies and contains much useful information that they did not give. On the other hand, it is somewhat capricious—deliberately so, one must note—in giving or withholding summaries of Lenin's writings and utterances chronicled, and far less informative about what Lenin's collaborators said, thought, or did. To get a more complete picture of the skeletal outlines of Lenin's life and works one must combine the notes and chron-