

tion. Gilberg recognizes this dilemma but propounds the optimistic solution that the forces of modernization will eventually overcome those of retardation. He may be correct in his judgments and predictions but the evidence, as of 1975, cannot rule out less optimistic assessments and prognoses.

STEPHEN FISCHER-GALATI
University of Colorado

ROMANIA'S SOCIALIST ECONOMY: AN INTRODUCTION TO A CONTEMPORARY EXPERIENCE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. By *Costin Murgescu*. Translated from the Rumanian by *Leon Jaeger*. Bucharest: Meridiane Publishing House, 1974. 178 pp. Paper.

This is a book which should not be taken very seriously by scholars interested in East European economies, central planning, or comparative systems. It would not even serve as a decent supplementary text for students in a course. Aside from the fact that the syntax is turgid and the style dull, the translation is so poor in some spots that it is impossible to determine the meaning of a particular sentence.

The book's major virtue is that it makes a good deal of recent data available to the English-speaking world. Contemporary economic performance is compared with pre-1945 achievements and this is useful, but there is no effort to evaluate the structural change which has taken place. Indeed, the book suffers from a liberal sprinkling of political rhetoric—in particular, quotes from Ceausescu's speeches.

Regrettably, there is a virtual absence of thoughtful economic analysis in this volume. We are asked to accept such meaningless assertions as the national plan "ensures the accomplishment of the Programme of the Romanian Communist Party, in accord with the objective laws of historical development and with the specific realities of each phase" (p. 71).

The greatest disappointment, however, is that a book written so recently does not at all deal with economic reform. While the book concentrates on macro structural issues and accomplishments, an uninformed reader might well be left with the impression that nothing has happened in Rumania since the Soviet Union taught the Rumanians central planning.

WILLIAM MOSKOFF
Sangamon State University

TURKEY, THE STRAITS AND U.S. POLICY. By *Harry N. Howard*. Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1974. xiv, 337 pp. \$14.50.

The hero of this book is a treaty. The Montreux Convention, concluded in 1936, allowed Turkey to exercise sovereignty over the Straits (and thus to fortify them) and laid down detailed rules of passage for merchantmen and warships in time of peace and in time of war. Today, after a world war, three decades of continuing crisis in the eastern Mediterranean, and several revolutions in military technology, it remains in force. The Turks control the Straits and the Russians are playing the game according to the rules. Their past attempts to change the rules provide a main theme of this book.