

AGRARIAN POLICIES AND PROBLEMS IN COMMUNIST AND NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES. Edited by *W. A. Douglas Jackson*. Far Eastern and Russian Institute Publications on Russia and Eastern Europe, no. 2. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1971. viii, 488 pp. \$15.00.

MEN VERSUS SYSTEMS: AGRICULTURE IN THE USSR, POLAND, AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA. By *Arthur E. Adams* and *Jan S. Adams*. New York: The Free Press. London: Collier-Macmillan, 1971. viii, 327 pp. \$12.50.

The agrarian problem is present in every political system. Advanced industrial societies have so far not been able to put it at the back of their minds, and the agricultural sector has been the source of many difficulties, especially, to name only one area, in the European Economic Community. Marxists believe that the solution to the problem was arrived at long ago. Cooperatives, large-scale enterprises, politically conscious workers, and science and technology provide the key to success. Unfortunately experience has often been disheartening, but this, they reason, must be attributable to human fallibility. Given a scientifically correct analysis of the objective situation, the result must be a continuing rise in output. On the age-old problem of the optimal size of the farm, they plump for the large one and dismiss the small farm out of hand.

These two books analyze the state of agriculture in the countries of the socialist bloc and many others besides. The volume edited by Professor Jackson presents the contributions of twenty-nine European, Asian, and American specialists who met at the University of Washington in August 1967. The book by Professor and Mrs. Adams is the result of a visit to the USSR, Poland, and Czechoslovakia during the summer of 1967.

The volume edited by Jackson has several papers devoted to the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China and one by Karl A. Wittfogel comparing the Soviet and Chinese experience. Wittfogel's contribution is very interesting and contains his views on bureaucracy in an Oriental despotism. The criticisms made by R. P. Rochlin in his commentary are for the most part just, but this reviewer does not accept his assessment of the impact of the Mongol yoke on Russian society. He maintains that the habits and character of the Russian people, the language, and the Christian faith remained untouched. Other contributions on the Soviet Union are by Alec Nove on the decision to collectivize (since published elsewhere); by Karl-Eugen Wädekin on the contributions made by kolkhozes, sovkhoses, and the private sector to agricultural production; by Eberhard Schinke on some peculiarities of the employment of factors; and by Henri Wronski on consumer cooperatives in rural areas.

Particularly interesting contributions are made by Konrad Merkel on the agrarian problem in a divided Germany and by Ki Hyuk Pak on the performance of agriculture in North and South Korea. Merkel's paper is an admirable attempt to compare the two systems—Communist and non-Communist—in Germany. It is regrettable that he did not go into more detail, since he is obviously a leading expert in the field. West German agriculture is a high-cost system, with small farms and, most would agree, overmechanized. East German agriculture produces more food per capita, and consumers there eat more butter per person than West Germans. Nevertheless labor productivity in the East is significantly lower owing to the large number of farmers nearing retirement. Neither part of Germany has

solved its agrarian problem. This is instructive, since both parts have made great progress industrially.

The papers on the People's Republic of China reveal the difficulty of obtaining accurate data on that country, thus contributions are especially welcome. Other specialists deal with agriculture in Taiwan and Japan.

The book by Professor and Mrs. Adams also makes interesting reading. Most of it is made up of descriptions of all types of farms in the USSR, Poland, and Czechoslovakia. Introductory chapters are provided on the evolution of agriculture in the various countries before the analyses of observed phenomena are provided. The authors are perceptive observers, and the great variety of farms described give a real insight into collectivized agriculture. The chapters on Poland and Czechoslovakia are illuminating. The two countries present a paradox—Poland overwhelmingly devoted to private agriculture, Czechoslovakia the exact opposite. Convinced believers in the efficiency of collective agriculture exist in Poland, and the future may belong to them. Since this visit the Polish worker has manifested his discontent over the slow growth in his standard of living and has demanded a more sophisticated diet. All the pointers indicate concessions to the private sector in Poland.

Soviet agriculture has been quite successful since 1967. The Eighth Five-Year Plan recorded a creditable increase in production, although failing to fulfill the plan. In the present plan period greatly increased investment has been promised, and last year's output was good. Despite the defects, apparent to all, the system seems capable of secular growth. However, a heavy price is being paid. One has only to remember the magnitude of the meat subsidy.

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ECONOMIC WARFARE IN THE COMMUNIST BLOC: A STUDY OF SOVIET ECONOMIC PRESSURE AGAINST YUGOSLAVIA, ALBANIA, AND COMMUNIST CHINA. By *Robert Owen Freedman*. New York, Washington, London: Praeger Publishers, 1970. xvi, 192 pp. \$14.00.

Has economic warfare as practiced by the Soviet Union been an effective weapon in its quarrels with other Communist countries? This is the question posed and examined in great detail by Freedman. The nature of the study is such, however, that in broad outlines both facts and conclusions are already known: the Soviet Union has applied considerable economic pressure in its quarrels with Yugoslavia (1948–55), Albania (1960–), and China (1960–), but in terms of its political objectives the pressure proved to be ineffective and very likely even counterproductive in each case. "If a communist leader is in firm control of his party," concludes Freedman, "no amount of economic pressure will cause his regime to collapse if alternate suppliers of raw materials, capital goods, and economic aid are available" (p. 48).

The signal contribution of this book is its detailed documentation of the chronology and extent of Soviet economic pressure against the three "target" countries. We learn that the Soviet arsenal includes delay in trade negotiations, refusal to buy or sell key commodities, delay or refusal to ratify trade agreements or to deliver goods for which contracts had been signed, reduction or suspension of economic assistance and training of students from the "target" nation, and a complete embargo of trade.