

prehensive picture of communication services from ancient Persia to the beginning of modern times. We learn little about military intelligence and espionage or their practitioners: only as much as may be extracted from the sporadic references in the sources on this topic. But that is an important result and makes the writing of this book worthwhile.

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EASTWARD TO EMPIRE: EXPLORATION AND CONQUEST ON THE RUSSIAN OPEN FRONTIER, TO 1750. By *George V. Lantzeff* and *Richard A. Pierce*. Montreal and London: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1973. x, 276 pp. \$15.50.

This book is a product of Robert J. Kerner's "frontier school," one of the few clearly identifiable schools of thought in American historiography on early Russia. Like Raymond Fisher, Lantzeff was a second-generation scholar and, despite his early death, developed his own heirs—Richard Pierce, Alton Donnelly, and John Harrison, among others. This posthumous book serves a useful function in pulling together the narrative on that restless line of the eastern frontier from the rise of Muscovy to the eighteenth century. That has been done here as well or better than anywhere else. In unadorned, spare language Lantzeff and Pierce have summarized judiciously and fully the moderately well known story of the fighting, trading, bargaining, and initial settlement of the Russians, implying a direct linkage and common (and perhaps conscious) purpose shared by Novgorodian and Suzdalian princes, and eighteenth-century explorers of Kamchatka. All this is done mainly from "published materials, both primary and secondary," used carefully and thoroughly. No other book provides such a dependable and usable account, although John Harrison's recent *Founding of the Russian Empire in Asia and America* covers much the same ground less substantially but in more vigorous prose.

Like Lantzeff, Pierce does not permit himself any extensive speculation on the causes, the dynamics, and the significance of this frontier in human terms. Not until the last short chapter is there clear reference to the "causes," and even then we are given no more than a recitation of the traditional explanations. None of these explanations (such as geographic determinism, quest for furs, and urge to the sea) is systematically examined in the preceding text and tested by the documentary evidence available. There is no description or analysis of the participants, either state or private. We learn little new of the state institutional structure in Siberia, a subject Lantzeff made such an important contribution to in his earlier monograph. Private entrepreneurs, except for the Stroganovs, barely come alive. Nor are we given any insight into what the frontier meant to the rest of Russian society, or what impact the conquest had on the subjugated peoples. These comments are not by way of criticism; the preface states unambiguously the rather limited scope of this study.

This review must end with praise for a volume worthy of the memory of Lantzeff. It will remain a highly useful capstone of the Kerner school. We must now venture out to some of these other questions.

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