

of proving this over again, we wish to point out the reverse influence (that of society on bureaucracy) at work during NEP."

The Social Prelude to Stalinism is, then, a book to be welcomed and read carefully for its fresh perspective and new departures. It is, however, also a book that disappoints in important ways. Not the least are too many carelessly written or poorly conceived generalizations. Are we to take seriously, for example, the statement that Stalin's exploitation of the peasantry in the 1930s was "a result of the economic policy formulated by E. Preobrazhensky" (p. 103), that there was a "monolithic Bolshevik party" (p. 291) between 1917 and 1929, or, presumably as interpretation, that with Stalin's purges the "authoritarian streak that has run through utopian thought in history turned into stark totalitarian reality" (p. 314)? Pethybridge's treatment of Bolshevik programmatic thinking is especially disappointing, if only because the considerable diversity of ideas inside the pre-Stalinist party is too often reduced misleadingly to "a single theory" (p. 25), "continuing fanaticism" (p. 6), or simply "utopian" (*passim*).

There are larger interpretative problems as well. The prevailing scholarly view has long been that Stalinism was the logical, even inevitable, outcome of the Bolshevik revolution. This assumption has rested in part on interpreting War Communism as primarily ideological rather than military in origin, and NEP, a plainly non-Stalinist period and set of official policies, as merely an impractical interlude or retreat in party history. Pethybridge accepts these questionable interpretations, but in doing so he raises dubious arguments against scholars such as Carr who have explained War Communism differently, and scarcely acknowledges the sizable body of recent Western and Soviet scholarship that gives a quite different picture of NEP.

Indeed, despite his own warnings against the "dangers of Whig history" (pp. 90 and 304), Pethybridge apparently sees Stalinism as the necessary and inexorable outcome of Bolshevism in power, the result of either a "vast gulf between small-scale economic realities and large-scale industrial ambitions" (p. 197), Lenin's "voluntarist step of a political *coup d'état* in October 1917" (p. 313), or both. Anyway, his flatly dismissive treatment of the ideas, potential, and defenders of NEP (pp. 63, 113, 197–98, 229, 239–41) suggests that there was no Bolshevik alternative to the cataclysm of 1929.

To be fair, this remains the majority view of Stalinism and early Soviet history in our scholarship. Nonetheless, far too much opposing evidence and scholarship has appeared in recent years to accept it so uncritically, or to conclude, as Pethybridge does, that Stalinism's "political, economic and unique personal qualities have been fully analyzed" (p. 302).

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JOSEPH STALIN: MAN AND LEGEND. By *Ronald Hingley*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1974. xxii, 482 pp. \$15.00.

The author, in his preface, tells how his biography of Stalin differs from other recent approaches. Unlike Professor Tucker, Dr. Hingley's emphasis does not lie in the ideological sphere; nor is he concerned with combining a biography of Stalin with a general history of the period, as has been done by Professor Ulam. Dr. Hingley is interested, rather, in the personality of Stalin and in the legend

that built up around him during his lifetime and afterward. The originality of this biography lies in new insights into Stalin's character, particularly with regard to his subtle intelligence which has been underestimated by many observers, including Trotsky. Attempting an explanation of Stalin's political motivation in harness with an interpretation of his private personality, Dr. Hingley is at his best (as might be expected from an authority on Russian literature) when dealing with Stalin's handling of cultural affairs.

The book is arranged in a rather peculiar way. Individual chapters are subdivided into parts, and frequently resemble a rag-bag of assorted information. The author, even within separate parts, jumps from one subject to another, sometimes in a flippant manner (see the subheading on page 275 entitled "Man of letters, home lover and commuter"). The main defect of this biography, however, as indeed of all previous biographies of Stalin, is the omission of any serious consideration of the social and economic milieu through which Stalin rose to power. The references to this background are very brief and the sources are generally secondary texts.

If one considers all the well-known biographies of Stalin, a common feature emerges: the volumes are a quite accurate reflection of biographical method current at the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth centuries, when historical biographies dwelt on so-called "good" and "bad" kings. The personality who reigned appeared to dominate not only the political but the social and economic life of his kingdom, so that by a sneeze or a yawn he could magically change the whole socioeconomic pattern of his reign. This method of historical biography has long been discounted in the treatment of authoritarian rule in earlier history. It has also been discarded with regard to the study of Nazi Germany. Unfortunately, it still remains as a specter from the past in the study of Soviet personalities in high politics. (The only biography which escapes from this myopia is Professor Cohen's account of Bukharin. But Professor Cohen was lucky to some extent, for it is impossible to write a biography of Bukharin, who devoted so much of his writing and thought to socioeconomic realities in Soviet Russia, without including that same background in any serious discussion of Bukharin's role in Soviet political history.) One example of the facile exaggeration of personal will can be found in Dr. Hingley's work in the section dealing with Stalin's doctrine of "Socialism in One Country" (pp. 173-77). Here, the author makes it look as though the idea was produced by Stalin, like a rabbit out of a hat, solely as a trick to deceive his opponents. This approach is comparable to taking James I's belief in the divine right of kings and maintaining that James thought it up entirely on his own in order to deal with the rebellious commoners in his realm. One cannot blithely dismiss the ideological roots of beliefs, as Dr. Hingley has done in this volume. In the sphere of international politics, just as in the sphere of socioeconomic development, there were intrinsic problems which had enormous effect on the political rivalry of the 1920s. Stalin was, of course, bent on overwhelming certain rivals between 1924 and 1928, but this aim was of far less historic importance in the long run than the pressures on him and his competitors to act in particular ways. There is still an urgent need to set Stalin's motives and actions in the wider background of his time, and to get away from the stifling atmosphere of high politics.

Sophisticated techniques have long been applied to work on Western politics and history that have not as yet infiltrated into Soviet studies. In the particular

area of biography, it is perhaps the flight from Marxist exaggeration of the *Unterbau* that has driven biographers into an opposing fantasy, one sometimes approaching a deterministic interpretation of the role of personality in history.

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GUIDE TO GEOGRAPHICAL BIBLIOGRAPHIES AND REFERENCE WORKS IN RUSSIAN OR ON THE SOVIET UNION. By *Chauncy D. Harris*. University of Chicago, Department of Geography, Research Paper no. 164. Chicago: University of Chicago, Department of Geography, 1975. xviii, 478 pp. Maps. \$5.00, paper.

Professor Harris's excellent reputation as a scholar of Soviet affairs is challenged only by his expertise in bibliography. In the present work, we have the natural conjuncture of the author's two inimitable skills. This volume contains 2,660 bibliographies and reference materials (for example, statistical compilations, maps, atlases, and encyclopedias) conveniently organized into seven parts. The first five parts cover Soviet publications (mostly in Russian). Part six lists reference works and bibliographies in Western languages (predominantly English). Part seven contains a comprehensive seventy-six-page index, which greatly facilitates the use of the bibliography by listing entries according to author, title, subject, geographical name, and sponsoring institution. Also included in this last section are maps of statistical and administrative units of the USSR which are keyed to an alphabetical list of the units' names.

The majority of the entries (more than 2,400) are contained in the first five parts of the volume. Part one covers a wide range of bibliographies of bibliographies, current and retrospective bibliographies, university, research institute and societal publications, and serials. Part two lists more than 800 reference works and reference bibliographies. The systematic fields of Soviet geography are found in part three. This section should be of most value to the researcher because of the great variety of disciplines included under the umbrella of geography in the Soviet Union—oceanography, geomorphology, meteorology, glaciology, and other earth sciences, as well as economic, population, and settlement geography. This section also lists bibliographies on the history of geography and exploration, historical geography, geographical methods (statistical, cartographical, and remote sensing) and ethnography and anthropology. Comprehensive geographical studies covering the Soviet Union as a whole and its various regions are found in part four, while part five surveys bibliographies of Soviet works on regional geography of the world outside the USSR.

Many of the entries are annotated, and include a summary of the nature of the materials covered in the bibliography or a brief description of the reference work. Professor Harris frequently notes the number of entries in the bibliography and conveniently provides the page numbers when the bibliography appears at the end of a volume.

Although Professor Harris has compiled an impressive bibliography of bibliographies within reasonable limitations (a volume must have a bibliography of 100 entries for inclusion, and emphasis is placed on publications of the period 1946–73), a few minor deficiencies exist. For example, the microfilmed copy of the catalog of Russian holdings in the Helsinki University Library deserves in-