

VLADIVOSTOK UNDER RED AND WHITE RULE: REVOLUTION AND COUNTERREVOLUTION IN THE RUSSIAN FAR EAST, 1920–1922. By *Canfield F. Smith*. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1975. xvi, 304 pp. \$11.00.

While Soviet scholars have given much attention, albeit selective, to the civil war in Eastern Siberia from the fall of Admiral Alexander V. Kolchak to the Japanese withdrawal, Western scholars, except for John A. White in *The Siberian Intervention*, have virtually ignored it. Moreover, almost no Soviet or Western work deals in detail with either the Communist-dominated or White governments in Vladivostok from 1920 to 1922. Thus, Canfield F. Smith has performed a signal service in his vivid, lucid account of this neglected chapter in the history of the Russian civil war and its aftermath.

Focusing his attention on Vladivostok because of its strategic location and its political, economic, and diplomatic importance, Smith analyzes the changes in political power in Vladivostok from January 1920 to October 1922. He deals with the reasons for the initial successes of these governments, as well as their political complexion, leading personalities, bases of support, strengths, weaknesses, and reasons for their failure, all important to an understanding of the period.

Smith demonstrates graphically how the lack of discipline among the Whites and the brutality of their rule, especially of such scoundrels as Semenov, Kalmykov, Bochkarev, and Rozanov, drove the population into the hands of the Communists. He shows how the Reds won in part because of the failure of the Whites to offer a viable alternative. The anti-Communists were simply too divided by ideology, personalities, and interests. He shows conclusively how Japanese policies and factions cast a shadow over the political and economic life of the territory they dominated, strengthening the brutality and lack of discipline of the White rule. Through his use of secret Japanese telegrams, Smith reveals how the independent actions of an important element of the Japanese military command often resulted in policies that were contradictory or unclear, even to the Japanese. The effect on Vladivostok and its environs was an unsettled situation that was occasionally created deliberately by the Japanese.

The study is enhanced by Smith's vivid descriptions of the changing Vladivostok leadership including such colorful figures as brutal Cossack leader Ataman G. M. Semenov; the weak, unscrupulous but dedicated Merkulov brothers; the former teacher and longtime trusted Bolshevik V. G. Antonov; and the two final rulers, General M. K. Diterikhs, monarchist, religious mystic, and former chief of staff of the Czechoslovak corps, and the eighty-year-old Sazonov, a Siberian regionalist. Particularly depressing is his analysis of the final efforts of the White leadership in the Southern Maritime regions in the spring of 1922. Although they realized that there was no realistic way to hold on to their power, they continued to struggle among themselves for the prize of governing a doomed region. Like a comic opera, each event became increasingly more ludicrous, despite the seriousness of the situation.

The study is impressively documented with a wide range of Russian and Western official and private sources. The chapter notes are detailed and exceedingly helpful; the bibliography extensive and critically annotated.

BETTY MILLER UNTERBERGER
Texas A. & M. University