

TO THE EDITOR:

The June 1976 issue of your magazine carried a "review" of my book, *The Education of Lev Navrosov*. I will mail to anyone interested the responses to my book of periodicals like the *New Yorker* or the *Washington Post*, of intellectuals and writers like Sidney Hook and Saul Bellow, as well as of academic and free-lance experts in Russian studies. (Home address: 3419 Irwin Avenue, Riverdale, New York).

A review in Phi Beta Kappa's *Key Reporter* said: "more relevant and significant in its human message than Solzhenitsyn's" (perhaps a naïve yet well-meant yardstick!). A review in *Midstream* said: "the single most important work of literature to have come out of the Soviet Union in almost sixty years" and "one of the three or four major works of the literary imagination that has been produced in the twentieth century."

I would say that your reviewer honestly understood nothing in my book if several of his statements did not show that he is simply vicious (probably because I am a new émigré without any academic or other influence to defend myself against his malice).

My index, he scoffs, "ranges from *Capone, Alphonse* ('Scarface Al') to *Shakespeare, William*." Actually, my index "ranges" from *Abel* to *Zinoviev*, from A to Z: the reviewer's viciousness is, indeed, farcical.

Similarly, the reviewer scoffs at the style of my book which I wrote in English in Russia: "a chatty serial in a clever, superficial style." Even the crudest Soviet official knows that no Russian or American who learned a foreign language at his college age has ever been able to write works of literature in this language inside Russia or America respectively. The reviewer has only malicious scorn even for what the crudest Soviet official treated with generous respect.

LEV NAVROZOV
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MR. PETHYBRIDGE REPLIES:

I have noted the letter to you from Mr. Navrosov. I am afraid that it does not alter my opinion of this book. All that I would like to add is that I would have written the same review of the book irrespective of the status of the author concerned.

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to take issue with several of the assertions made by Alvin Rubinstein in his review of my book, *Soviet Policy Toward the Middle East Since 1970* (*Slavic Review*, September 1976). Dr. Rubinstein questions the validity of "certain points" which I raised, as follows:

First, that Nasser gave up "a considerable amount of Egyptian sovereignty in an effort to get revenge for his humiliation" (p. 43). In fact, as a result both of his defeat in 1967 and his inability to halt the Israeli deep penetration raids against Egypt in 1969 and 1970, Nasser was forced to give the Russians control over a number of Egyptian air and naval bases in order to get their assistance. This, in my opinion, substantiates the assertion that he gave up Egyptian sovereignty.

Second, Rubinstein disagrees with my assertion, "the presence at Nasser's funeral of a senior American official, Elliott Richardson, was a matter of concern for the Russian leadership" (p. 43). While Rubinstein contends that the Egyptians did not consider Richardson a senior U.S. official, the issue is not what the Egyptians thought but what the Russians perceived. Indeed, the article by Yuri Glukhov in