

collectivization the peasant mutual-aid societies were replaced by corresponding kolkhoz offices. Communism itself, an early KKOv congress had been informed, was to be "a huge organization of mutual aid for all mankind."

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THE WHITE DEATH: THE EPIC OF THE SOVIET-FINNISH WINTER WAR. By *Allen F. Chew*. East Lansing: Michigan State University Press, 1971. x, 313 pp. \$12.50.

Professor Chew's work is primarily a study of military tactics. His sources are impressive: published documents, memoirs, and secondary works in English, Finnish, and Russian; archival materials in Washington and Helsinki; and personal interviews with a number of Finnish officers who participated in the battles he describes. The result is a far more detailed study of the fighting than has hitherto been available in any major Western language. (At times, indeed, the reader may wonder who needs or wants *all* the details he gives. For example: "While trying to hurl a grenade thru a window, Lt. Heinivaho was hit in the left arm and side, but he was able to crawl back to the aid station to begin the long trek by sleigh and bus to the hospital. Another officer of the Fifth Company, Lt. Lehtinen, was killed near the crest of the hill, his body rolling down the slope," p. 47.) The author's descriptions of all the principal battles of the war are precise and clear, and illustrated by admirable maps and diagrams. He spares neither side in his criticisms, but reserves his admiration for the Finns.

One might wish that more generalizations about the reasons for Finnish success and Russian weakness would emerge from Chew's somewhat disjointed individual studies of battles. To be sure, the explanations are there, scattered throughout the book: poor Soviet planning and preparation in the early stages of the war, which Moscow had expected to be a triumphant blitzkrieg; the unsuitability of mechanized Soviet forces to much of the wintry terrain, especially on the more northern fronts, and the corresponding advantages of what Chew calls "primitive tactics" on the part of the highly mobile Finnish infantrymen in the woods; the relative unimportance of air power during the dark winter; and, above all, the generally high quality of Finnish leadership and, until close to the end, the superb morale of the Finnish troops.

The White Death is more than a military study. It contains an admirable summary of Mannerheim's career and an evaluation of his complex personality (pp. 84-96 and 278-80). The book includes, perhaps unfortunately, a final chapter on the Continuation War (and the months preceding and years following it), which adds nothing to what is already available in English on the subject and oversimplifies such matters as Mannerheim's attitude toward attacking beyond Finland's boundaries of 1939. Some readers will certainly not agree with the author's pessimistic views about Finland's present and future and his remarks about "certain bourgeois politicians [who] court the Kremlin to advance their personal interests" (p. 247). Indeed, in many of his comments on the political background of military events from the 1920s on, Professor Chew is decidedly partisan.

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