

from its dogmatic leftism and in the direction of the united front and an anti-fascist orientation (pp. 309–10).

The biographers rightfully point out that Dimitrov became *de facto* head of the Comintern soon after his return to Moscow in early 1934, and well before his crowning as the general secretary during the Seventh Congress of 1935. As early as May 1934 Dimitrov sent Stalin a detailed scheme of the reorganization which the Comintern was to undergo (p. 320). In October of the same year, Stalin responded: "I have no doubt that the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union will support you" (pp. 332–33). The reader is bound to find some new information on the reorganization of the Comintern apparatus and the new style of work following the Seventh Congress (pp. 373–77).

Nothing typifies the neo-Stalinist character of the biography better than the accounts (or rather their absence) of the latter part of the 1930s and early 1940s. The Great Purge is not even mentioned. Nothing is said of the sudden disappearance of hundreds of Comintern functionaries, including many of Dimitrov's own Bulgarian compatriots, employed as they were, nominally at least, by the General Secretariatship. Since the purge remains an official taboo, the biographers cannot claim even that minimum of deserved credit for Dimitrov, who on occasion succeeded in extracting individual Comintern functionaries from the hands of Stalin's secret police and saving them. What does the counterpositioning of enormous nominal authority and utter actual impotence do to the psyche of a man of genuine revolutionary past and undoubted courage? All these questions are left to the reader's imagination.

There is little of interest on Dimitrov's activities after his return to Bulgaria in 1945. He did, as long as he lived, keep the Bulgarian party leadership together. Tito, for whom Dimitrov had a genuine personal liking, is given a single passing mention. The Bled Agreement between the two, which was to institute the beginning of a Balkan federation, is disposed of in a single paragraph. Stalin's public displeasure with Dimitrov's federation schemes in 1948 is not mentioned. The cruelty with which Dimitrov disposed of the non-Communist opposition in his home country is not concealed.

Dimitrov was and remains an important object for scholarly scrutiny. Above and beyond his career, he is significant as a prototype for those numerous genuine revolutionaries caught in the Stalinist grip and forced into a perpetual impotence-omnipotence syndrome of existence. Unluckily, those who possess the archives remain unable, and possibly incapable, of turning out anything better than this glorified but emasculated caricature of an interesting and significant figure.

NISSAN OREN  
*Princeton University*

REVOLUTION ADMINISTERED: AGRARIANISM AND COMMUNISM IN BULGARIA. By *Nissan Oren*. *Integration and Community Building in Eastern Europe*, no. 8. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1973. xv, 204 pp. \$8.50, cloth. \$4.00, paper.

Bulgaria is drawing increasing scholarly attention. Understandably, although unfortunately, the emphasis remains on general developments during the Communist period and on the history of the Communist Party, while many special aspects of current Bulgarian society, let alone its history, lie unexplored.

This book offers the most readable short political survey of contemporary Bulgaria, from the end of World War I to the present. Although based mostly on previously published research (including Oren's own), the product is a powerful and convincing summary of the rather tragic fate of modern Bulgaria.

Oren not only writes with thorough knowledge of the political history of the country (Communist as well as pre-Communist, which is a rarity) but also makes judgments which often run counter to "popular" views in our literature about the Bulgarians and Bulgaria's relations with neighbors and great powers alike. He places in a much more balanced perspective the motives and actions pertaining to the country's domestic and foreign policies, thus apportioning the blame to others besides the Bulgarian leaders of the pre-Communist era. In fact, this redress of the widespread misinterpretation of pre-Communist Bulgarian history, rather than the coverage of the Communist period, is one of the book's major assets.

As the title suggests, the main emphasis is on the conflict between the peasant majority, rallied primarily around the populist Agrarian Union (which had no backing from abroad), and the Communist minority (which won only because of the support by the Red Army and the Soviet colossus). The book is indeed dedicated to the three exponents of the short-lived Bulgarian democracy—the Agrarian Gichev, the Democrat Mushanov, and the Socialist Pastukhov, who fought and perished in a losing battle against the Soviet-backed regime.

In his excellently integrated conclusion, Oren asks a most pertinent question: "Has the national ego of this small people been impaired in the process [of the relentless Sovietization]?" (p. 172). And he speculates optimistically that the "state of political deep freeze [which he cannot reconcile with the country's past and potential] . . . will have to give way sooner or later" to either a modified domestic system or to marginal maneuverability on the international plane, since "failure to explore either of the two may bring about an uncontrollable explosion" (p. 183).

There are some shortcomings in substance (such as the tendency to overrate the influence of the Agrarians at the expense of other parties, or the neglect of the Bagrianov period), in form (the paucity of direct source references, especially of statistical data, becomes irritating), and in errors of fact (for example, Stamboliiski and Pašić were not heads of state but of government, p. 48). However, the merits, including a substantial bibliography (albeit *minus* periodical literature), are too numerous to warrant petty criticisms.

L. A. D. DELLIN  
*University of Vermont*

PROBLEME DER WIRTSCHAFTLICHEN ENTWICKLUNG ALBANIENS: UNTERSUCHUNG DES ÖKONOMISCHEN UND SOZIOÖKONOMISCHEN WANDLUNGSPROZESSES VON 1912/13 BIS IN DIE GEGENWART. By *Hans-Joachim Pernack*. Südosteuropa-Studien, no. 18. Munich: Eigenverlag der Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft, 1972. xiii, 198 pp. DM 24, paper.

This volume is a comparative analysis of two basically different developmental concepts prevalent in Albania—between 1912–13 and 1939, and since 1945. It analyzes the results in terms of socioeconomic changes in Europe's most backward country. Basically the study deals with problems found in most developing countries. It must be stressed that these two periods of Albania's socioeconomic development