

LIFE IN RUSSIA TODAY. By *Jack Miller*. London: B. T. Batsford Ltd., 1969. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. x, 198 pp. \$4.00.

This book makes an excellent supplement to the standard textbooks and books of readings for introductory courses on the Soviet Union. The author is a senior editor of *Soviet Studies* and brings to his study an impressive amount of expertise in his subject, both by virtue of having lived in the Soviet Union before World War II and having visited there a number of times since then.

Although this is a "breadth" book rather than an "in depth" study, illustrated throughout with photographs depicting many facets of Soviet life, it is by no means a superficial treatment of the peculiar life and institutions of the USSR. As the statement on the dust jacket says, the author "seeks to show how the Russians themselves view their own society. . . . Mr. Miller portrays the beliefs and ambitions, the satisfactions and frustrations, of the ordinary Russian and his family." However, the author is analytical as well as descriptive in his presentation of current Soviet institutions and human relations in his chapters "Public Mental Life," "The Political and Economic Framework," "Life in the Villages," "Life in the Towns," "Some Occupations and Groups," and "Some Professions." The discussion of the working of the *nomenklatura* is one of the best this reviewer has seen.

The reader will tend to accept as logical and probable the value judgments of the author, probably because of his immense knowledge and his complete familiarity with the tsarist and Soviet background of "life in Russia today." For example, he remarks that "relations between people are not a simple matter in any modern society. The additional complication in Soviet society caused by the informer system, especially in the sphere of friendship and mutual trust, makes the whole country ill in a sense that may or may not be definable by social psychologists or psychiatrists, but is real enough to the inhabitants" (p. 152).

With a refreshing absence of Soviet jargon and acronyms, the book may have only one real shortcoming—its lack of footnotes. It is stated in the author's preface that "in keeping with other books in the series, footnote references to the published sources are not included."

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THE DEMONSTRATION IN PUSHKIN SQUARE: THE TRIAL RECORDS WITH COMMENTARY AND AN OPEN LETTER. By *Pavel Litvinov*. Translated by *Manya Harari*. Boston: Gambit, Inc., 1969. 176 pp. \$4.95.

The main and central part of this book is a faithful account of two trials that took place in the Moscow City Court in February and September 1967, and that are somewhere in the middle of a chain of dramatic events, all connected with the struggle for freedom of expression, freedom of peaceful assembly and association, and other fundamental rights and freedoms contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948. It began with the arrest and trial of Daniel and Siniavsky in 1965–66, and ended, if there is an end to such prosecution in the USSR, with the arrest and trial of Pavel Litvinov himself, who was sentenced to five years' exile in Siberia in 1968.

The author, grandson of the famous Maxim Litvinov, was once an admirer of Stalin. Disgusted by the severe punishments imposed on Daniel and Siniavsky, he joined those who wanted to do something about it. In 1968 he became known all over the world, particularly for his "Appeal to World Public Opinion," which he

signed together with Daniel's wife Larisa. In the spring of the same year he completed a book on the trials of five people, who, with a few others, had demonstrated in Pushkin Square not only for the release of Ginzburg's associates, Galanskov, Dobrovolsky, Lashkova, and Radzievsky, but also against the already famous new articles 190/1 and 190/3 of the Russian Criminal Code. They were found guilty under the same article 190/3—Khaustov also under article 190/1—against which they had protested.

A short introduction written by Karel van het Reve, six appendixes with the texts of the judgments and other documents, as well as four pages of notes, will certainly be helpful to all readers, particularly those who are not familiar with the unrest among Soviet intellectuals and with some aspects of Soviet criminal law and procedure.

This is not a book for lawyers only. It is a document that should be read by everybody.

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THE CHRISTIAN FAITH AND THE MARXIST CRITICISM OF RELIGION. By *Helmut Gollwitzer*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1970. ix, 173 pp. \$5.95.

MARXISM IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY. By *Roger Garaudy*. Translated by *René Hague*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1970. 224 pp. \$5.95.

CHURCH IN A MARXIST SOCIETY: A CZECHOSLOVAK VIEW. By *Jan Milič Lochman*. New York, Evanston, and London: Harper & Row, 1970. 198 pp. \$5.95.

These volumes have historical value as relics of a phenomenon of the sixties—the "Christian-Marxist dialogue."

When Gollwitzer, a German Protestant theologian, read the paper on which the present book is based before the Commission on Marxism of the Study Fellowship of the Evangelical Academies in Germany in 1958 and 1959, such organizations were pioneering ventures which had not yet aroused much interest among Marxists and which confined their activities largely to probing the bond between Marxism and atheism. Gollwitzer's book is accordingly a potpourri of somewhat ponderous but frequently enlightening observations on the accidental character of that connection. Some of his points are largely curiosities, such as his tracing of the "opiate of the people" figure (he finds anticipations of it in Goethe and Holbach) and his reminders of the Christian orientation of many early socialists, illustrated in this hymn written by Wilhelm Weitling for the children of his "Labor Union" members:

I am a little Communist,
 And riches I disdain,
 Because our Master Jesus Christ
 Sought neither gold nor gain.
 I am a little Communist,
 And shall be kind and true,
 And later as a Christian join
 The Labor Union, too.