

Indeed, one is prompted to ask why the Soviet authorities have overreacted to the Ukrainian protesters who have only engaged in discussion and in efforts to persuade the Soviet government to honor its own constitution and laws. The answer to this question would provide a most significant datum regarding Soviet politics and behavior. Moroz contends that it is "the immortal cretinism of the Black Hundreds in a new guise," while Max Hayward, in his foreword to the collection of documents, terms the Soviet Union a "grotesque conglomerate." Do the seemingly desperate—one might even say, pathological—efforts of the Soviet authorities to suppress dissent testify to their profound fears of its consequences?

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DIE ZUNFTHANDWERKER IN REVAL IM SIEBZEHNTEN JAHRHUNDERT. By *Arnold Soom*. Kungl. Vitterhets Historie och Antikvitets Akademiens Handlingar, Historiska serien, 15. Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell, 1971. 223 pp. Paper.

Three fundamental books on seventeenth-century Baltic history, published by Arnold Soom in 1954, 1961, and 1969 (*Der Herrenhof in Estland*, *Der Baltische Getreidehandel*, and *Der Handel Revels*), have in the course of the years been supplemented by his numerous shorter publications. The present work—though of book length—constitutes, with its wealth of detailed description, another supplement to the fundamental work. Owing to Soom's mastery of the Estonian, Swedish, and German sources, the new book, which is strictly descriptive, will provide basic material for a long time to come.

Almost the entire first half of the book is taken up by an account of every trade practiced in seventeenth-century Reval—thirty-two all told, including the manufacture of perukes, buttons, and watches. The study includes descriptions of the different guild organizations, the statutes which governed them, the scope and form of their activities, and the social standing of the artisans. The second part deals with (1) the training and work of apprentice, journeyman, and master, (2) the attitude of the Reval artisans to arising competition and their efforts to maintain their country-wide monopolies, (3) the struggle of the artisan organizations against the modernization attempts initiated by the town council and supported by the Swedish government, and finally (4) a discussion of the markets which the Reval guilds and artisans had built up beyond the city limits on the nobles' estates and in the peasant villages. Soom shows that a dynamic element was lacking, and this lack is reflected in his treatment: he deals with an undramatic, rather static condition.

In the course of his descriptions, Soom brings up numerous matters which shed light on sociological issues and daily life and living conditions—on prices, on tools and technical skills, on housing and food habits, on legal questions affecting the ordinary citizen—and even on as modern an issue as consumer protection. Lastly, the book makes an additional contribution by inviting comparisons between levels of development in Eastern and Western Europe. In every respect, it is scholarly, thorough, and informative.

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