

sions cautious. The story is not only told well, but it is also conscientiously documented. The book should be read in conjunction with Ezra Mendelsohn's excellent brief study *Class Struggle in the Pale*. In Mendelsohn's study, some of the same problems are seen from a different perspective through the eyes of individual members of the proletariat, who take a critical look at what political leaders have in store for them. Another work (hopefully it will become generally available) to be read in conjunction with Tobias's book is Jonathan Frankel's massive and masterly dissertation *Socialism and Jewish Nationalism in Russia 1892-1907* (Jesus College, Cambridge University, 1961). Frankel delves deeper into the relationship between Jewish nationalism and Jewish socialism in Russia and thus throws additional light on the question of why the Bund emerged, why the Bund grew so rapidly when it did emerge, and why the Bund developed the way it did.

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NICHOLAS II: THE LAST TSAR. By *Marvin Lyons*. Edited by *Andrew Wheatcroft*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1974. 224 pp. Photographs. \$16.95.

From a fund of 35,000 unpublished photos in personal and public archives Lyons has selected 350, which, along with a rather sparse text, trace the Romanov family from the youth of Alexander III to Nicholas's final days in Siberian exile. The album naturally focuses on Nicholas and amply documents his absorption with military ritual and domestic life. There are revealing sequences of other figures as well, for example, Alexander III's swift inflation from a slim grand duke to a portly young tsar and father, and the steady deterioration of Empress Alexandra, whose anxious and weary expression deepens in each succeeding picture. Among the most striking single photos are a portrait of the emotionally drained Alexandra at her son's sickbed in Spala and the four grand duchesses in 1917 with their heads shaven.

While carefully identifying each picture, the author fails to provide any analysis of the photos or to say anything about the purpose or method of selection. He shows little awareness of the historical or psychological dimensions of his material. The tendency of the text may be judged by the comments that Nicholas's coronation festivities were "marred only once when a number of people were crushed to death . . . on Khodinski Field." The omitted number was 1,389 killed, plus 1,300 severely injured.

Nevertheless, all those interested in the tsarist family will be grateful for this handsomely printed and extensive photographic account of its final years.

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"VOENNYI KOMMUNIZM": POLITIKA, PRAKTIKA, IDEOLOGIJA. By *E. G. Gimpel'son*. Moscow: "Mysl'," 1973. 296 pp. 1.22 rubles.

Was War Communism a deliberate leap into the Communist utopia, or was it a series of improvisations forced on Soviet leadership by the exigencies of civil war and economic collapse? Repeating current Soviet interpretations, which view War Communism as a product of circumstances, Gimpel'son's synthesis of