

there. In 1951 he published his *History of Russian Philosophy*, for which he is perhaps best known in this country. He died in France while visiting his son Boris.

The most valuable part of *Vospominaniia* is Lossky's account of his acquaintance with a host of Russian philosophical, religious, and scientific thinkers. Nevertheless, he has indulged in including a great many people and events, sometimes trivial, that are of no general interest. The typography of the book is also more faulty than it has any business to be.

MATTHEW SPINKA  
Claremont, California

STALIN AND HIS GENERALS: SOVIET MILITARY MEMOIRS OF WORLD WAR II. Edited by *Seweryn Bialer*. New York: Pegasus, 1969. x, 644 pp. \$10.00.

The Soviet specialist often views collections of essays as aids to teaching rather than to scholarship, but this judgment would be entirely misplaced in regard to Professor Bialer's book. Long an almost insignificant category of Soviet publications, memoirs have become in the last dozen years one of the most abundant and revealing sources. This is particularly true of war memoirs by *regular* military officers. Some eight years ago the present reviewer published in these pages a survey of Soviet publications on World War II. Although even by then a number of revealing general histories and monographs had appeared, memoirs necessarily had a negligible place in the survey. In contrast, Bialer excerpts nearly fifty memoirs and refers in his copious notes to many more. The vast majority of the works excerpted were published after 1962, and only one as early as 1960. Indeed, the editor is so impressed by the wholly contemporary nature of the military memoir outpouring that he somewhat understates the availability of other treatments of the war in earlier periods (though high-level military operations were poorly covered under Stalin, peripheral aspects such as the partisan movement and certain important episodes like the Donbas evacuation were relatively fully treated). This minor myopia in no way detracts from the essential value of the book: its revelation to the general student of Soviet affairs of the treasure house of *nonmilitary* information contained in the memoirs, which are simply too numerous and too lengthy for those not particularly concerned with World War II to follow.

Bialer's selection can hardly be faulted, certainly not unless one has (in contrast to this reviewer) undertaken the Herculean task of reading all of the vast body of material drawn upon. Although most of the selections are from books, a few anthologies and articles from a number of general periodicals, such as *Novyi mir* and *Oktiabr'*, are excerpted. The most extensively used periodical source is *Voenna-istoricheskii zhurnal*, whose very important articles would usually not come to the attention of the average student of Soviet affairs. As possible supplements one might suggest a few major items which perhaps appeared too late for Bialer's consideration: L. M. Sandalov's treatment of the immediate prewar period, *Perezhitoe* (1966); B. V. Bychevsky's *Gorod-Front*, on the siege of Leningrad (1967); S. M. Shtemenko, *General'nyi shtab v gody voiny* (1968—Bialer uses Shtemenko's earlier articles); K. A. Meretskov, *Na sluzhbe narodu* (1968); and of course G. M. Zhukov's memoirs (Bialer uses some of his articles), *Vospominaniia i razmyshleniia* (1969).

Bialer's coverage considerably exceeds the period of Soviet participation in

World War II; about one-fourth of the translated material deals with the military during the Great Purge, the Nazi-Soviet Pact period, and the Finnish War. This is in accord with Bialer's concentration on the social and political aspects rather than the technical side of military affairs, though the prewar coverage does enable him to show the origins of the strategic and technological blunders that caused the Soviet military forces such suffering. For both the prewar and the war period the selections are especially revealing on the nature of military leadership in the USSR and the interaction of civilian and military leaders. Zhukov's extraordinary power in 1941–42, his later rivalry with Konev and other marshals, and Stalin's complicated personality are only a few of the key issues of Soviet affairs illuminated by the memoirs. They also contribute considerably to our understanding of questions like nationality—the role of Russians as the last bulwark of the regime in 1945, the anti-Semitic sneers at men like L. Z. Mekhlis, Stalin's fear of being identified too closely with Beria as a Georgian. Bialer is keenly aware of the importance of the fact that his sources are divided into two roughly equal groups: those published before and those after Khrushchev's fall from power. In his extensive introduction and notes he frequently underscores the significance of the period of publication for his memoirist's treatment of particular episodes. In this, as in more general respects, Bialer's enormous industriousness and erudition are placed at the disposal of the reader. It is all the more regrettable that his publisher seriously limited the accessibility of this conscientious work by failing to include an index.

JOHN A. ARMSTRONG  
*University of Wisconsin*

THE OTTOMAN IMPACT ON EUROPE. By *Paul Coles*. History of European Civilization Library. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1968. 216 pp. 109 illustrations. \$5.95.

*The Ottoman Impact on Europe* is an unpretentious volume. It is designed to inform college students and intelligent laymen of the actions of the Ottoman Turks that were directed against Western Europe and of the reaction of the West to Ottoman imperialism in the period 1520–1699. Professor Coles also provides such auxiliary information about the nature of the Ottoman Empire and its military machine as is necessary for a simple appraisal of the impact of the Turks on Europe. All this Coles has done well, in summary fashion, in the best tradition of the better textbook writers of the second half of the twentieth century. The book is thus a welcome addition to the meager body of literature on Ottoman and East European history currently available for classroom use.

The title of the volume, however, is misleading. The author's definition of "impact" is basically limited to military interaction between the Ottoman Empire and its western foes. The few references to the Turkish impact on the Renaissance and Reformation, for instance, are oblique and inconsequential. The discussion of extramilitary reactions by the West to Ottoman aggression, particularly in the cultural and economic spheres, is also perfunctory.

It is our impression that the choice of a title was imposed by the requirements of the historical series to which this volume belongs. Whatever the reasons, no title will elevate Coles's contribution above that of the basic textbook which in fact it is.

STEPHEN FISCHER-GALATI  
*University of Colorado*