

THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF LENINGRAD: SCHOOL AND WORK OPTIONS AND ATTITUDES. By *Evelina Karlovna Vasil'eva*. Introduction by *Richard B. Dobson*. Translated from the Russian by *Arlo Schultz* and *Andrew J. Smith*. White Plains, N.Y.: International Arts and Sciences Press, 1975. xxxi, 177 pp. \$15.00.

Evelina Vasil'eva originally published this book in 1973, under the title *Sotsial'no-professional'nyi uroven' gorodskoi molodezhi*. Chapters 2–4 were translated by Arlo Schultz for the IASP journal, *Soviet Education*. The present volume adds Andrew Smith's translation of chapter 1 and Richard Dobson's introduction. There is no index.

Among Soviet works on social and educational questions, Vasil'eva's study stands out for its straightforward handling of such important but touchy problems as the differences between boys and girls in gaining access to higher education, the success of urban as compared with rural pupils, the relative advantages possessed by pupils from families having only one or two children, the correlations between the pupils' performance and the economic or socio-occupational level of their parents, and the extent of pupils' preference for white-collar rather than blue-collar jobs.

The study is based on three bodies of data: material collected by the author in 1967–68 on 4,824 pupils in grades 3 through 10 of seven Leningrad schools; material collected in 1968 by G. G. Zaitsev on 4,445 Leningrad youths, a 5 percent sample of those graduated from the tenth grade of 28 schools in the years 1963 through 1967; and material gathered by the author in 1970 on 1,137 workers under thirty years of age in seven Leningrad machine-building plants. Although her claims for achieving a chronological dimension are a bit overdone, her comparison of various age groups is useful. Her notes give a moderately full explanation of her sources and methods.

Schultz and Smith deserve credit for a translation that is clear and precise without being too literal. Dobson's twenty-five-page introductory essay, reflecting knowledge gained in the course of his own research, provides an admirably balanced and comprehensive view of Vasil'eva's study against the background of other recent Soviet research on related topics.

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THE GRIGORENKO PAPERS: WRITINGS BY GENERAL P. G. GRIGORENKO AND DOCUMENTS ON HIS CASE. Introduction by *Edward Crankshaw*. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1976 [Amsterdam: Alexander Herzen Foundation, 1973]. viii, 187 pp. \$12.50.

On a frosty January morning in 1968 I was standing in front of the doors of the Moscow City Court, where two of my friends—Iurii Galanskov and Alexander Ginzburg—were being tried; one of them later perished in the camps, the other is again in prison. Suddenly, making his way through the crowd, appeared a tall man in a long dark coat with a cane in his hand and the sort of facial expression which is cultivated after years of possessing power. "A typical Stalinist," I thought, "he must be the judge." But I was mistaken: before me stood one of the most astonishing dissidents, Peter Grigor'evich Grigorenko.

The life of Peter Grigorenko is similar to the kind of model life which Soviet journalists so love to describe in feature stories under a heading like "From a Farm Laborer to a General": agricultural proletariat as a youth, factory work, entry into the Komsomol and the party, technological institute, military-technical academy, Armed Forces Staff Academy, participation in the war, and, finally, professorship in the Academy.

However, just when his career had progressed to its logical end and it was possible for him to think of retirement as a two-star general, a new, and seemingly unexpected, life began for him: organization of an underground union to fight for the revival of Leninism, arrest, reduction to the ranks and declaration of insanity, release and participation in the human rights' movement, rearrest, and almost five years in KGB prisons and prison psychiatric hospitals. It is difficult to imagine the extent of the cruelty in treating a sane man like a mentally ill one. Upon my return to Moscow from exile in Kolyma, I hardly knew the gravely ill old man whom I recognized as Peter Grigor'evich, but in 1976, at the age of seventy, he was to become one of the founders of the Helsinki Group. His spirit remained uncrushed.

Despite the apparent suddenness of the eventful turning point in his life, he had been preparing for it all his life. For Peter Grigor'evich, joining the party was not a stepping stone to a successful career but a means to serve justice as he understood it. Many people who sincerely subscribed to communism in the days of their youth experienced a gradual disillusionment—first, in the practice of communism, and then in the theory. For the majority, however, particularly in the USSR, this disillusionment led to cynicism, which masked some form of escapism, and only a very few found within themselves the strength to continue their fight for justice. One needed intense faith, strong will, and the naïveté of a fighter.

This naïveté is noticeable in everything written by Peter Grigor'evich and it sometimes provokes a smile in the Western reader. His language seems heavy, garnished with bureaucratic locutions and Soviet clichés. Nonetheless, I would recommend his book to everyone who is interested in what is happening in the USSR, from the historical article on the Second World War, to the controversial letters in defense of human rights, and the accounts of prisons and psychiatric hospitals. The book contains documents, an excellent introduction by Edward Crankshaw, and a noteworthy foreword by Andrei Grigorenko. It is evident from the latter that the family's support meant a great deal to Peter Grigorenko.

The major interest of the book, however, is its author, and for this reason I began my brief review with a recollection of my first meeting with him. General Grigorenko's break with the Soviet system, like Academician Sakharov's, is a visible superficial breach which testifies to the profound geological faults in Soviet society. Many people in the West do not understand this clearly enough and I am therefore very glad that *The Grigorenko Papers* has been published in the United States.

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THE CRISES OF FRANCE'S EAST CENTRAL EUROPEAN DIPLOMACY, 1933–1938. By *Anthony Tihamer Komjathy*. East European Monographs, 21. Boulder, Colo.: *East European Quarterly*, 1976. viii, 277 pp. \$14.50. Distributed by Columbia University Press, New York.

The subject of this study—French diplomatic relations with Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, and Yugoslavia in the crisis-ridden years of the 1930s—is an important one. We need to know a good deal more in detail and nuance about French relations with the Little Entente (even in regard to Czechoslovakia only 1938 is fairly well known), and study of French policies toward the two former “enemy” states, Austria and Hungary, has hardly begun. Regrettably, Komjathy's book is disappointing and does not fulfill the promise of its title.

The author tries to cover far too much in a relatively short book: French diplomacy and the state of France herself in the 1930s, notably, the state of the economy and the army; the foreign policies, politics, and economics of Austria, Czechoslovakia,