

In the introduction, Jean-François Revel points to the identification of historical parallels and of current contradictions, presumably in the East, as the primary contribution of the book. My reaction is different. I find the central utility in the assessment of change in the East—Poland, Hungary, as well as the Soviet Union—associated with East-West trade. One might ask whether there has been any qualitative significance or irreversible changes in the Eastern systems associated with East-West trade. Nagorski permits, but does not compel, the reader to answer yes. To Nagorski, the dynamics of East-West trade's impact on national systems are evident primarily in the East. He may assume that his readers are more familiar with the West, or that changes in the West are either slow in coming or less likely in the long run. On this emphasis, he is not clear.

This book does not fit easily into any niche. Perhaps that illustrates its value. I recommend it to readers of the *Slavic Review* as a fresh, sound approach to an important contemporary subject.

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LE PROGRAMME DU COMECON ET L'INTÉGRATION SOCIALISTE.

By *Marie Lavigne*. Paris: Éditions Cujas, 1973. 389 pp. Paper.

The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (Comecon or CMEA) was founded in 1949, after the Soviet Union had forced her new East European satellites to interrupt their traditional and close economic relations with Western countries and to direct their flows of trade into what Stalin had named the "Socialist World Market." During the first years of its existence, the CMEA served Moscow as an instrument to adapt these economies (Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic since 1950, and formally also Albania) to the reconstruction needs and to the strategic priorities of the Soviet Union. In itself, CMEA had little, if any, practical significance for the economic development of the European member countries at that time.

Though exchanging economic experience, extending technical aid to one another, and rendering mutual assistance with respect to raw materials, foodstuffs, machines, equipment, and so forth, were declared tasks of CMEA from the very beginning, hardly any efforts had been taken to bolster the importance of these aims until the late 1950s. Specialization of production and coordination of long-term perspective plans, agreed upon by the members in 1956, showed only modest results during the 1960s. Since the power of the Council was restricted to recommendations, and the members, particularly Rumania, refused stubbornly to accept the Soviet suggestion to transfer national rights and competences to the CMEA (and thus give it a similar authority as the West European EEC), specialization agreements concluded by the member countries could never be enforced.

After many years of slackening integration the Soviet Union and other developed CMEA members apparently exerted considerable pressure on their partners for accelerated development and cooperation between them. After several years of debate, a "Complex Program intended to deepen and improve the cooperation and to develop the socialist economic integration of the member countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance" was adopted by the twenty-fifth session of the Council in Bucharest in July 1971. Marie Lavigne's book is a commentary on this Complex Program, generally regarded by Eastern and Western

authorities as a milestone on CMEA's road to economic integration. The author attempts to determine whether the Program is "integrationist" as its title suggests, and to evaluate the chances of the organization to realize the proposed objectives.

The book begins with a description of the concept and institutional framework of CMEA, and presents an interesting comparison of the economic development and of the different levels of industrialization in the member countries. The main part of the volume is an interpretation of the means of integration as suggested by the Program, and includes such topics as mutual consultations, coordination of planning, technical cooperation, and the exchange of findings of research, intra-CMEA trade, financial ties between the members, supranational organizations and enterprises, as well as industrial cooperation.

Almost three years after the book was written, the rather optimistic conclusion of the author regarding future economic integration of the CMEA countries and increased "opening" of the organization to exchanges with the outside world cannot yet be verified. However, the harsh critique of actual integration and cooperation in Eastern Europe (*Közgazdasági szemle*, 21, no. 9 [1974]) by Hungary's top economic politician, Rezső Nyers, raises some doubts.

The volume includes nineteen charts, an appendix with brief but detailed information on structure and functions of fifteen different intergovernmental organizations of CMEA, as well as the text of the Complex Program. The bibliography lists 161 titles of monographs, articles, documents, and statistical reports mostly in French, English, and Russian, published up to 1972. The index seems small for this complicated subject, but an extensive and detailed table of contents facilitates the use of the volume as a handy reference book.

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ESSAYS ON PLANNING, TRADE AND INTEGRATION IN EASTERN EUROPE. By *Jozef M. P. van Brabant*. Rotterdam: Rotterdam University Press, 1974. ix, 310 pp. 59.50 Dfl.

The book consists of twelve papers, all but one of which has been previously published by the author in several German, French, and Swedish journals or symposia. As with most collections of this kind, the volume is very difficult to review in fairness to the author and to the potential reader. The greatest value of the collection is a rather extensive bibliography, close to three hundred references on the issue of East European economic integration, which is provided in the form of footnotes to the author's analysis. Apart from the bibliographical value, however, the book offers little, and it is deficient in both presentation and analysis.

The presentation of the material is disappointing. Despite the author's claim to have revised the papers by deleting overlapping passages and completely re-writing some parts to "clarify" minor obscurities, the volume contains a horrendous amount of repetitious and mostly semantic argumentation. Furthermore, the volume lacks even a remote balance, promised by the title of the book, between the analysis of the three major topics—planning, trade, and integration. In fact, there is little analysis of either planning or trade, let alone the relationship between the two, that would benefit the reader, whether a specialist in the subject matter or not. The book's concern is almost exclusively with "integration."