

to base some 650 aircraft in Siberia, but Moscow delayed and eventually the entire project came to naught. In the European USSR a proposal for large-scale United States and United Kingdom air deployment to the Caucasus in the fall of 1942 was eventually dropped, but substantial shuttle bombing between Italy and the Ukraine did take place in 1944–45. A total of 2,200 sorties were flown, involving 1,270 Americans at three Ukrainian bases, but overall this effort had only modest military results. (In addition, on the first major strike mission a German attack on the base at Poltava caused disastrous results—forty-three B-17's were destroyed and twenty-six damaged, and not a single attacking German aircraft was destroyed.) Nonetheless, the shuttle-bombing experience was a notable achievement in Allied cooperation.

Eagles East reads easily, and is recommended to those who would like to know more about this chapter in Soviet-American relations, as well as to those having a particular interest in the politico-military history of World War II.

RAYMOND L. GARTHOFF
Washington, D.C.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SOVIET LEGAL SYSTEM. By E. L. Johnson. London: Methuen & Co., 1969. New York: Barnes & Noble, 1970. xv, 248 pp. £3.25. \$10.50.

In this brief work the late E. L. Johnson attempts to introduce Soviet law and legal institutions to the educated layman. Its title notwithstanding, the book treats the law in much greater detail than the legal system; and to the law it is indeed a valuable overview, relatively free of the specialized jargon of lawyers.

The author has devoted special attention to those legal problems thought to be of particular interest to the educated citizen, especially criminal law and procedure and domestic relations. Brief attention is also given to contract and tort, labor law, and the Soviet equivalent of corporation law. Interestingly, and unaccountably, the area of civil rights is largely ignored. For instance, statutory restrictions on assembly and demonstrations, so clearly expressed in the trials of the Pushkin Square demonstrators, are not mentioned. Nor is any note taken of the procedural and statutory bases for the current Soviet practice of remanding political oppositionists to mental institutions, thereby avoiding some of the potential embarrassment of a criminal process. Such lacunae stand as the major shortcoming of the work.

In other regards, Johnson succeeds admirably in supplying a readable and intelligible background to Soviet law for the nonspecialist. The book is notably without ideological bias, and deserves a wide readership.

RICHARD J. JOHNSON
Glassboro State College

POLITICS AND HISTORY IN THE SOVIET UNION. By Nancy Whittier Heer. Cambridge and London: M.I.T. Press, 1971. viii, 319 pp. \$12.50.

That the Soviet historian has special political functions is well known. Specialists have also become increasingly aware that in recent years the relationship between the historian and the party has become more complex, and that at the same time more objective history is being written. The great value of Nancy Heer's study is that through painstaking research and perceptive writing she has filled in a picture which we knew only in outline.