

economy. And if they are, the price would certainly not be too high to pay for the East European peoples.

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DIVORCE IN POLAND: A CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIOLOGY OF LAW. By *Jan Górecki*. *Studies in the Social Sciences*, 5. The Hague and Paris: Mouton, 1970. 156 pp. Paper.

This is an empirical study of the divorce law in Poland, which bases the determination of reasons for divorce upon the formula received from Soviet law. Between the wars Polish jurists included a new family law—dealing with both marriage and divorce—in their program of legislative reform. The draft was prepared, but for a number of reasons (rooted primarily in local traditions) enactment was delayed. It was adopted in 1945 after the liberation of Poland. The 1945 law was replaced in 1950 by the law modeled after the 1944 Soviet Family, which featured a simple formula permitting either spouse to sue for divorce in case of a “complete and lasting disintegration of marital relations.” The 1950 law was eventually replaced by newer codes, but the divorce formula remained unchanged, and the present divorce practice of Polish courts represents twenty years of continued tradition.

The main purpose of the inquiry was to establish the actual meaning of the key words that determine the reason for divorce—through questionnaires, direct observation of divorce proceedings in court, and interviews with lawyers, judges, and litigants. The data gathered by this method were supplemented by more traditional sources, such as the statistics printed by the Ministry of Justice, data available in other studies, and so forth.

Although the empirical part of the book is largely based on a somewhat limited number of answers to questionnaires, the conclusions arrived at are interesting, and it deserves the attention of jurists and sociologists.

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INFORMATION AND REFLECTION: ON SOME PROBLEMS OF CYBERNETICS AND HOW CONTEMPORARY DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM COPES WITH THEM. By *Peter Paul Kirschenmann*. Dordrecht: D. Reidel. New York: Humanities Press, 1970. xv, 225 pp. \$14.00.

Peter Kirschenmann's book focuses on some of the philosophical problems that have arisen in the Soviet Union as Marxist-Leninist philosophers have tried to adapt cybernetics to dialectical materialism. Kirschenmann deals especially with attempts to show that despite its very general methods, which give it the appearance of a philosophy, cybernetics is merely a science that deals with a number of systems and processes, but within a limited framework which does not place it in competition with dialectical materialism. The author's particular concern is a subdivision of cybernetics—information theory—which he defines as dealing with “signal processes and their relations in communications devices.” This choice of topic is especially relevant because of the close connection between information theory and the basic Marxist-Leninist philosophical assumption regarding the material nature of ultimate reality. The book serves as a case study of the limitations