

Fedor was still tsar. Stoiko writes of Russia in the early 1900s as "the Soviet Union" (p. 27). On page 33 he insists that Fridrikh Arturovich Tsander was a Lithuanian, whereas that early and most capable rocket scientist was a Lett. Stoiko pays me the compliment of including my *Russia's Rockets and Missiles* (1960) in his bibliography. At least he could have copied some of those names and facts from my book correctly.

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COEXISTENCE AND COMMERCE: GUIDELINES FOR TRANSACTIONS BETWEEN EAST AND WEST. By *Samuel Pisar*. New York, Toronto, London, and Sydney: McGraw-Hill, 1970. xv, 558 pp. \$17.50.

Mr. Pisar's book is addressed primarily to lawyers, businessmen, public officials, and others who have an interest in trade with socialist countries. They will find it a unique source of information and advice on the special commercial and legal problems encountered in that trade. But it is more than a handbook, for the author devotes the first half of the book to an exposition of the political and economic background that gives rise to the peculiarities of East-West trade. The reader therefore gains not only a knowledge of the problems but an understanding of their origin as well. The work reflects the author's solid scholarship in socialist legal systems and a wealth of practical experience in the field.

The specialist on socialist societies will find little that is novel in the economic and political background materials. He will, however, find a great deal of interesting data in the accounts of actual transactions and legal cases with which the book is richly documented. The specialist will inevitably find generalizations to which he may demur. For example, Pisar explains the growing interest in the Soviet Union in patent licenses as the consequence in part of the country's growing capacity for innovation; it is no longer only a borrower, but acts as both licensor and licensee. No statistical data are presented in support of this generalization, however, and in the illustrative materials it is only such countries as Czechoslovakia and East Germany that appear as licensors of technology to the West. Questions of this sort are inevitable in a wide-ranging book, and do not detract from the authoritative and judicious treatment of the subject.

A major contribution is the "code of fair practices" proposed by the author as a basis for improving the institutional framework within which East-West trade is conducted. But it is not self-evident that the removal of those institutional obstacles would lead to the substantial increase in trade that Pisar expects. What it would do is decrease the costs to the socialist countries of conducting trade under present conditions. Those conditions increase the risk and uncertainty of trade, and we may be sure that Western businessmen, in pricing a proposed deal, make full allowance for any barter or "tie-in" or other arrangement imposed on them. Indeed, specialized commercial and banking institutions have already sprung up, and they even have names—"switching houses" and "barter houses." The costs of such efforts to cope with the obstacles to trade are borne largely by the socialist countries, and Pisar's recommended practices would eliminate such costs and thus increase the benefits of the existing volume of trade. But the volume of trade may or may not increase, depending among other things on the economic policy of the socialist countries. In any case, Pisar's recommendations would help greatly

to increase the efficiency of trade, and they will surely be part of the agenda of any serious effort to improve East-West trading conditions.

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COMMUNIST TRADE IN OIL AND GAS: AN EVALUATION OF THE FUTURE EXPORT CAPABILITY OF THE SOVIET BLOC. By *Robert E. Ebel*. New York, Washington, and London: Praeger Publishers, 1970. xx, 447 pp. \$20.00.

Of the 447 pages in this book, 188 are devoted to a discussion of the topic indicated in the subtitle, another 200 to translations of Soviet writings on the oil business, and the remainder to statistical tables on Communist trade in oil. There is also a short section describing source materials for the study of the subject.

The author examines the record of growth of Soviet exports of oil and gas as determined by the differential growth of output and domestic requirements, and attempts to assess future export capabilities by extrapolation of these two factors. Important in the analysis is the extent of the East European claim on this export potential, and the way its evolution will affect the possible volume of exports to non-Communist areas. This is straightforward enough, and the author has useful and sensible things to say about most of the considerations influencing each of these variables. Crucially important, of course, is how much of a cost burden the Russians may be willing to assume to expand oil output fast enough to make an export surplus available as a foreign exchange earner. Unfortunately the author has relatively little concrete to say about the cost situation, though he does treat Soviet export behavior as motivated primarily by economic rather than political goals. Also, the state of information is such that he must be rather inconclusive about the extent to which the East European nations are willing, or will be allowed by the Russians, to meet their oil needs from outside the USSR. He concludes that bloc exports to the non-Communist world will not grow much beyond the level reached in the late sixties, but discounts, for the near future at least, the notion that the Soviet–East European area will shift from being a net exporter to a significant importer of oil and gas. This general perspective seems reasonable, and is indeed confirmed in more recent pronouncements (circa 1970) by Soviet oil officials.

The collection of translations, which comprises (a) material on Soviet attitudes about trade in oil and their capitalist competitors in the international oil business and (b) information on pipeline development in the region, is intended to give the person who does not have access to original materials some basis for insights into Soviet policies and attitudes. This portion of the book is less successful—emphasis is on material published for political polemical purposes rather than on that which would reveal the forces that more directly guide their decision-making. The material on pipelines, on the other hand, is from more technical sources, and contains a large amount of basic information on the subject. But as a whole, these readings hardly constitute, as the author suggests, “an adequate basis for independent analysis by other researchers” (p. 191). Another difficulty is that for a nonspecialist this material needs much more annotation than is supplied. What, for instance, will the nonspecialist make of the term “PoVolga