

sciousness. The author traces the contradiction to the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion" complex which continues to hold many Soviet officials in its grip. The stereotyped image of the Jew as a potential secret conspirator with ties outside the monolithic Soviet state demands that he continue to be clearly identifiable, even as the institutional structures for perpetuating such identity are pulverized.

The "Protocols" theme requires a far more intensive analysis than is found in the Eliav book. The remarkable massive resuscitation in contemporary Soviet propaganda of the basic elements of that infamous forgery demonstrates the need for a sophisticated application of sociopsychological insights in any serious examination of the Soviet Jewish problem. Equally essential is an analysis of the burgeoning self-consciousness of Soviet Jewry, of which Eliav has perceived only a glimmer.

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THE RISE AND FALL OF T. D. LYSENKO. By *Zhores A. Medvedev*. Translated by *I. Michael Lerner*, with the editorial assistance of *Lucy G. Laurence*. New York and London: Columbia University Press, 1969. xvii, 284 pp. \$10.00.

This study of the Lysenko affair traces its history in considerable detail, naming names (and eloquently eulogizing the victims), quoting at some length from speeches, debates, articles, and reports, and explaining the scientific questions at issue in many of the events. Medvedev himself, as he states in the preface, has come by his knowledge of these events in several capacities: for the events of 1929–41 as a historian (whose facts have been checked with those who were there); for the events of 1946–62 as an observer; and for the events of 1962–66 as a participant. Drafts of the first two parts of the book were circulated during the third of these periods, and were used as part of the struggle to overcome the scientific power and influence of Lysenko and his followers.

This book is thus not only an extremely useful chronicle of what happened but also represents the courageous action of a scientist deeply involved, at his own risk, in the issues he describes. It was not, however, intended as an anti-Soviet book. Medvedev submitted the manuscript to a committee of the Academy of Sciences, who accepted it for publication. Only when political intervention blocked its publication in the USSR and he was faced with the prospect of publication of an unauthorized version in the Western press did Medvedev allow the present version to be translated and published in this country.

Medvedev's own conviction that freedom of scientific inquiry and discussion are fully compatible with Marxist communism appears clearly in the pages of this work. At the same time, his chronicling of the injustices and stupidities committed in the course of the whole affair, together with his explanation of how it came about (stressing, among other factors, the overcentralization of scientific administrations and the isolation of Soviet scientists from foreign contacts), constitutes a severe indictment of the Soviet system in its Stalinist phase.

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