

COURTS OF TERROR: SOVIET CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND JEWISH EMIGRATION. By *Telford Taylor* et al. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1976. xii, 187 pp. \$6.95, cloth. \$1.95, paper.

This book is the story of a project aimed at obtaining relief for a number of Soviet citizens whose attempts to emigrate to Israel ended instead in Soviet labor camps. Professor Telford Taylor of Columbia University Law School, in collaboration with a number of other specialists in American and Soviet law, prepared briefs on behalf of these prisoners. The briefs were submitted without publicity to the procurator general of the USSR, R. A. Rudenko, who, along with Professor Taylor, had been a prosecutor at the Nuremberg trials. When this approach failed, the participants turned to publicity as an alternative approach toward their goal. This book represents part of their attempt to put pressure on the Soviet government to free the prisoners involved and to provide better treatment for other would-be emigrants.

The book must be viewed for what it is, a lawyer's brief for the defense, not an objective scholarly work. The high quality of the legal team put together by Professor Taylor is reflected in the excellent writing and argument. Despite the disadvantage of lack of access to the trial records and the inability to interview the prisoners, it proved possible, with the aid of relatives and acquaintances who had already emigrated to Israel, to develop a detailed and convincing reconstruction of the alleged violations of Soviet law.

Many of the actions criticized appear to be contrary both to the principles of individual rights traditional in American law and to those guaranteed by published Soviet legislation. However, a major question unavoidably left open is whether the actions of lower level Soviet legal authorities are purely arbitrary with respect to prospective emigrants or whether they are in strict obedience to unpublished rules of Soviet law, such as those described in recent papers by Soviet émigré lawyer Yuri Luryi.

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BURZHUAZNAIA FILOSOFIIA XX VEKA. Edited by *L. N. Mitrokhin* et al. Moscow: Izdatel'stvo politicheskoi literatury, 1974. 335 pp. 82 kopecks.

This book, a popularization of standard Marxist-Leninist attacks on twentieth-century Western philosophy and theology, issued in a printing of 100,000 copies, holds no surprises. Like so many of its predecessors, it is more an apology for Marxism-Leninism than a study of Western philosophy. The work is a survey and the product of a dozen hands. Most of the contributors are members of the Institute of Philosophy of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and some of them have produced monographs on the figures or movements they discuss. Though reasonably well informed about Western philosophy, the collective authors find nothing to learn from their research which might be assimilated into Marxism-Leninism. As the introduction makes clear, there is no compromise possible between Western and Marxist-Leninist ideologies.

The book is intended as an aid for propagandists, a textbook for party schools, and a primer for independent study. The errors of Western thinkers and movements—as seen from the Marxist-Leninist perspective—are highlighted. In addition to the standard discussions of realism, pragmatism, neopositivism, personalism, and existentialism, this volume includes chapters on French structuralism, philosophical anthropology, Neo-Freudianism, Protestantism, and the philosophy of contemporary Catholicism. Each is said to be a kind of idealistic ideology representative of the crisis