

the Communist administration in this area were often initiated with a Holy Mass.) In a coercive, authoritarian way a new socioeconomic base was formed, which sometimes suffered reverses.

Kruszewski has written an honest and highly informative book. He tells us candidly about the intolerant, sometimes unambiguously oppressive nationality policies, but on the other hand he gives an unconditional and fair picture of the achievements. In consequence a new, quite different nation has emerged. A mass of peasants were brought into this Polish melting pot. Institutions and values began to change, while intergroup tensions between the autochthonic population and the newcomers appeared and increased.

Kruszewski illustrates his volume with excellent statistical tables, and supplies a fine and extensive bibliography. Indeed the book is a very useful contribution, a service to scholars of the East European area.

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REVOLUTION AND TRADITION IN PEOPLE'S POLAND: EDUCATION AND SOCIALIZATION. By *Joseph R. Fiszman*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1972. xxii, 382 pp. \$15.00, cloth. \$7.50, paper.

Professor Fiszman has written an interesting and thought-provoking book on education in present-day Poland. He was given access to research material collected by official Polish institutions and organizations (the Union of Teachers and the Atheist Society), which very few Western scholars have been allowed to see and use. This by itself should draw the attention of all who study the internal development of the countries of the Soviet bloc in Europe, and who are nearly always starved for factual material on so many matters. On the other hand, as the author admits, the statistics made available to him are very imprecise, or are completely silent on many important aspects of Polish education (p. xviii). Thus we are never given the hard facts about the earnings of teachers or a comparison of these with the salaries of other social groups (in the very last chapter, on page 318, the author just mentions the "extremely low salaries of teachers, especially at the lower levels"). Neither is much attention given to the astonishing condition of employment which refuses Polish teachers any contractual arrangement with the employers, and gives the latter the right to fire a teacher without even a day's notice (p. 128). Yet the teacher is obliged by law to stay in his place of work at least three years, whatever the circumstances (p. 83).

Fiszman decided to tackle the problem which is the most difficult for a Westerner dependent on the good will of officials: the politics behind education in a country ruled by Communists. One can fully appreciate his effort not to become a propagandist of the proscribed line. But while he succeeds in many cases, he fails in the, to me, most important ones. Fiszman rightly sees in the Roman Catholic Church the institutionalized opposition to the party line on education. Yet not once does he use the impressive sociological works on this very problem by highly trained Catholic scholars, who work in the Catholic University in Lublin, unique in Eastern Europe; the Polish author most quoted on these matters in his book is Mr. M. Kozakiewicz, a leader of the insignificant Atheist Association. The author's view on religion, and other typical expressions of Polish culture, is that they are remnants

of the past, a tradition created by the gentry and the petite bourgeoisie, antiscientific, and so forth. The fact that 80 percent of the youngest teachers (under twenty-five) have declared themselves to be devoted to the church (p. 196), although they were born as citizens of a Marxist-atheistic state, is, as the author agrees, not easy to explain by dividing the Poles into "Progressives" (the small Communist minority and their fellow travelers) and stubborn "Traditionalists."

The conflict in Polish society is not between revolution and tradition. The Poles made no revolution after the war, but found themselves in a geopolitical situation which they were not strong enough to change. The group which rules them is basically opposed to the whole culture and history of the Poles, whose religion is Roman, philosophy French-influenced, literature romantic (partly German-influenced), and to whom Marxism-Leninism as an educational guide appears as an Eastern heresy and is incomprehensible.

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SOCIALIST BANKING AND MONETARY CONTROL: THE EXPERIENCE OF POLAND. By *T. M. Podolski*. Soviet and East European Studies Series. New York and London: Cambridge University Press, 1973. xiii, 392 pp. \$28.50.

The role of money in a planned economy has been traditionally viewed as one of passive support for meeting real economic objectives spelled out in the plan in physical terms. This view is supported by Professor Podolski's study of the prewar and postwar Polish banking system. From the onset of central planning, the main function of the National Bank of Poland—a central bank as well as an enterprise credit-granting institution—has been to oversee enterprise economic activity to ensure that it conforms to the plan. Podolski has carefully documented many institutional and policy changes that have occurred in the banking system throughout the planning period, but one is struck by the lack of change in the fundamental relations between the banks, the planners, and the enterprises. Only the 1969–70 reforms indicate the possibility of some decentralization of decision-making.

In addition to his description of bank control over enterprise behavior, Podolski also suggests that the bank has little power to control the overall level of spending and thereby the rate of inflation through the use of traditional monetary policy tools. This is an interesting and controversial question, since evidence on the Soviet Union indicates a relation between credit expansion and inflation. He argues that Polish enterprises have resorted to the use of illicit trade credit whenever the level of bank credit has been restricted. He is therefore arguing that the velocity of money in Poland is quite variable and accommodates itself to the needs of the enterprise. It would have been useful if the author could have presented some statistics on the relation between the growth of bank liabilities and economic aggregates. Despite this shortcoming, the book offers a thorough and well-documented description of the evolution of Polish financial institutions. The study provides insight not only into banking practices but also into the fundamental problem of the locus of decision-making authority in a centrally planned economy.

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