

efforts in the agricultural sphere must be judged as having enjoyed relatively little success."

As a study of the Virgin Lands program, the background to that program, and Khrushchev's role in its development, the book succeeds, and should be read by anyone interested in Soviet agricultural development. As a more general study of the Khrushchev record, and in particular of the balance among the various themes promoted by Khrushchev, this work is less satisfactory. To be fair, the author may have intended to treat only the narrower theme, but the substance of the book and the conclusions drawn suggest otherwise.

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THE SOVIET UNION SINCE THE FALL OF KHRUSHCHEV. Edited by Archie Brown and Michael Kaser. New York: The Free Press, Macmillan, 1975. xiv, 294 pp. \$13.95.

In this compendium several British scholars examine the Soviet scene during the first decade under Brezhnev. Their aim is to provide a broad readership with "a thoroughly informed, up-to-date [mid-1975] survey of the changes that have taken place . . . since Khrushchev's departure" (p. xi). While not exhaustive, the work manages effectively to cover major social, economic, and political developments of the period. Successive chapters deal with agriculture, the import of Western technology, foreign and defense policies, demographic developments, the changing composition of the Communist Party, dissent and opposition, religion, and literature. While nationality problems are not dealt with separately, relevant data appear in the articles on demography and religion. The essays by Alec Nove (on agriculture) and Peter Reddaway (on dissent) deserve special praise for their scholarship and lucidity.

Two final essays contain general assessments of the economy and polity. Unfortunately, the first of these, by Michael Kaser, will prove difficult for the reader without special knowledge of economic or Soviet affairs. Archie Brown's overview of political trends, which includes careful attention to the political implications of the earlier chapters, admirably rounds out the collection. Students will find useful the "Calendar of Political Events" (from October 14, 1964 to April 16, 1975).

This is a timely and valuable survey.

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POLITICAL CONTROL OF THE SOVIET ARMED FORCES. By Michael J. Deane. New York: Crane, Russak & Company, 1977. xi, 297 pp. \$17.50.

SOVIET ARMED FORCES REVIEW ANNUAL, vol. 1, 1977. Edited by David R. Jones. Gulf Breeze, Fla.: Academic International Press, 1977. x, 277 pp. \$29.50.

Growing interest in the Soviet military has spurred Western scholars to an intensification of the research efforts needed to help shed light on this complex and often confusing subject. The two books under review approach this task from different perspectives. Michael Deane's book focuses on the role of the Main Political Administration (MPA), while the work edited by David Jones touches on many different aspects of the Soviet military.

The purpose of Deane's book is to "define types of interest groups represented by the MPA, the Party and the professional military" (p. viii). Providing a historical overview of party-army relations from 1917 to Ustinov's promotion to defense min-