

THE LEGACY OF ROSA LUXEMBURG. By *Norman Geras*. London and Atlantic Highlands, N.J.: NLB and Humanities Press, 1976. 210 pp. \$11.25.

Among the contending schools and divergent tendencies in modern revolutionary Marxism, two have been particularly influential in Soviet Russia—Leninism and Luxemburgism. Indeed, the history of the Communist Party in the first decade after the revolution might well be written in terms of this conflict. True enough, as Mr. Geras is at pains to point out, the common understanding of Luxemburgism and Leninism is a gross distortion based on misunderstanding or exaggerating the actual views of these two leaders; and yet, essential differences remain, as in the end he cannot but concede.

In its briefest form, the difference is that between the Leninist stress on pragmatism and Luxemburg's insistence on socialist morality. Though an entire chapter devoted to the dialectics of ends and means in his book tries to explain this conflict away, at the end of the book the author bemoans the lack of courageous critics among the Bolsheviks, who might have curbed serious Leninist mistakes—as if there had not been large numbers of oppositionists throughout the early years of the revolution who voiced precisely such warnings; but Lenin and Trotsky saw to it that this Luxemburgite conscience was silenced.

Today, Luxemburg's stress on socialist morality has reemerged in revolutionary Marxism. Luxemburg once again is quoted against Lenin. Geras, who writes from a Trotskyist point of view, convincingly shows that in many essentials the two leaders were in agreement; but he can do this only because he concentrates on issues peripheral to the main one—Luxemburg's alleged "spontaneism," her alleged evolutionism and economic determinism, her alleged fear of premature revolutions, and other heresies. The important issue of national self-determination is omitted; and the crucial issue of socialist morality is smothered in a dialectical fog.

Nonetheless, Geras's detailed exegeses of those issues in Luxemburg's thought which he has singled out is a contribution to our understanding not only of her thought but also of its relationship to that of Kautsky, Lenin, and others. His guarded judgment of her contribution to Marxist theory is of interest primarily to the faithful in various sects of revolutionary Marxism.

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MODERN RUSSIAN HISTORIOGRAPHY. Revised edition. By *Anatole G. Mazour*. Westport, Conn. and London: Greenwood Press, 1975 [1939, under the title *An Outline of Modern Russian Historiography*; 2nd ed., 1958]. xiv, 224 pp. Illus. \$13.95.

Professor Mazour's survey of "Russian historians of Russian history" has become a classic of American scholarship on Russia. First published before the Second World War, it remains in print and continues to be the only work of its type that exists in English. When Mazour's book appeared, in fact, it was the only one of its type in any language. And what an ambitious undertaking it is! Nothing less than a description and evaluation of Russian historiography from Nestor to Pokrovskii, compressed into a single volume on the "basic writings of Russian history in Russia," for "readers who lack acquaintance with Russian" (first edition, 1939) or "with Russia" (second edition, 1958).

The latest edition, the third, includes some new materials on the chronicles and on the earliest historians of Russia, but it deletes the previous edition's sections on émigré historians, on the Eurasian school, and—because Mazour has recently published

a separate volume on Soviet historiography—on scholarship since Pokrovskii (except that Siberian historiography is treated through the 1960s). These additions and deletions slightly reduce the proportion of the book that is devoted to post-eighteenth-century historiography. The order in which individual historians are presented has been somewhat rearranged. New paragraphs briefly define the categories of “Juridical School” and “Legal Marxism.” The “General Bibliography,” that is, the appended list of books and articles on Russian historiography, has been revised and now includes books published up to 1974 (but no articles more recent than 1954). The footnotes have been moved to the backs of the four chapters, a particularly inconvenient location because the footnotes contain the bibliographic entries. The works cited in the text do not appear in any systematic list, or even (with the exception of a few titles translated into English) in the index.

In short, this edition differs in no major respect from the preceding one. The text has not basically changed, nor have the author’s judgments of Russian historiography and of individual historians. The needs of the book’s intended readers, however, have changed, as a result of the flourishing of Russian studies since the Second World War, the renaissance of Soviet historiography since Stalin’s death, and the translation or republication of many of the outstanding works of Russian historical writing. Beginning students of Russian history need an outline of the major historiographic controversies, centered around such problems as the origins of Russian serfdom. Advanced students should use more than this book, which was modestly designed by its author “merely as a guide” to the important and complex subject of Russian historiography.

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BOOKS IN ENGLISH ON THE SOVIET UNION, 1917–73: A BIBLIOGRAPHY. Compiled by *David Lewis Jones*. Garland Reference Library of Social Science, vol. 3. New York and London: Garland Publishing, 1975. xiv, 331 pp. \$30.00.

This bibliography lists 4,585 books which deal with the Soviet Union “from the October Revolution of 1917 to the end of 1973.” Only works in English are included. These are arranged by subject with an index of names at the end of the book. The objective, though not explicitly stated, appears to be a comprehensive listing of books in the social sciences and humanities.

Although the intended scope is all-encompassing, examination of the bibliography reveals uneven coverage. The principal strengths lie in the sections on Soviet society (1,047 items) and history (1,236 items). Books on language (grammars, dictionaries, history of the language, and so forth) seem to have been deliberately omitted. The section on literature (742 items), while on the whole fairly complete, lacks those works of early Soviet writers which, when they appeared in English, did so only in anthologies. The subsection on leisure and sport includes 27 titles of which 24 are books on the subject of chess. (Surely more than three books appeared in English on other sports and leisure pastimes in the Soviet Union during a fifty-year period.) Despite its efforts at being comprehensive, the “Description and Travel” section pales in comparison with Harry W. Nerwood’s *To Russia and Return: An Annotated Bibliography of Travelers’ English-Language Accounts of Russia from the Ninth Century to the Present* (1968). Of the 1,473 items in Nerwood’s book, about 800 cover the period 1917–68, while Jones’s bibliography includes only 573 titles for a longer time span.