

POST-WAR EUROPE: A POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY. By *Mark Blacksell*.
Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1977. 205 pp. Tables. Figures. \$16.00.

Blacksell's study on postwar Europe aims to present, in the short space of less than two hundred textual pages, a mass of social, economic, and political facts of life, emphasizing the various East and West European integration movements, their objectives, and their problems that have come about since World War II. In nine brief chapters, Blacksell tries to accomplish what numerous geographers and many more social scientists have done in the last few years in individual in-depth studies.

The author's criticism of geographers' reluctance to include "regional political assessments in their writings" (introduction, p. 12) is certainly not borne out, even in a quick perusal of recent writings. Other critical comments, such as the geographer's concern for "general principles and philosophy, rather than with the regional impact of political events," only show, in this reviewer's opinion, a certain lack of knowledge of the writings of geographers on the numerous regional problems of the various European nation-states and, even further, nescience of the basic objectives in analyzing spatial changes of the European scene. Writings by Gottmann, Hall, Hamilton, Hoffman, Mellor, Nystrom, Parker, and others, and the valuable short analytical studies edited by Scargill in the Problem Regions of Europe series all give considerable attention to the regional impact of political events.

The book is organized around nine chapters, including a very debatable introduction, at least as it concerns the subchapter entitled "Political Geography and the New Europe." The last chapter, "Future of Europe," clearly indicates the difficulty in making regional political assessments in a rapidly changing political scene. The author himself emphasizes the "hazardous occupation of predicting social and economic trends." Although the preface is dated January 1977, most of the discussions end with developments in mid-1974, many of which, as is well known, have already been overtaken by later events resulting quite often in outdated economic and political assessments. The whole impact of the economic slowdown after 1974 could not have been foreseen; it raised numerous spatial problems, and its influence on the European regional scene is still difficult to evaluate (partly because of slowly available regional statistics). Statistical data summarized in five tables are generally outdated; a book published in 1977 certainly should include statistics published by the European Community's Statistical Office, the Economic Commission of Europe, the United Nations, and the CMEA Statistical Office for 1975.

In spite of the above criticism indicating the author's lack of knowledge of the writings by geographers, Blacksell's study is certainly not without its merits. The greatest value of the study lies in the fact that the author has brought together in a very readable manner the dimensions of change and economic interaction in Europe since World War II by discussing the numerous new international organizations. This is a useful undertaking, but certainly not a unique study in the spatial aspects of political geography.

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UMWELTSCHUTZ UND ÖKONOMISCHES SYSTEM IN OSTEUROPA.
DREI BEISPIELE: SOWJETUNION, DDR, UNGARN. By *Hans-Hermann
Höhmann, Gertraud Seidenstecher, and Thomas Vajna*. Stuttgart: Verlag W.
Kohlhammer, 1973. 175 pp. DM 25, paper.

During the past decade it has become clear that Communist political systems are not immune to the environmental problems faced by the industrialized states of the West. *Umweltschutz und ökonomisches System in Osteuropa* is one of the first Western