

the party membership primarily. It is on this score that the discussion falls short of being complete. Party schools and education are dealt with only in passing. Another point of criticism could be the lack of historical perspective, again because of the very brief description of what took place in political education before Khrushchev arrived on the scene. But obviously the author had to set the limits of her study somewhere, and within these limits the book provides the reader not only with novel information on the subject but also with a well-structured and analytical approach to the problem of political communications in the Soviet system.

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SOCIAL CHANGE IN SOVIET RUSSIA. By *Alex Inkeles*. Russian Research Center Studies, 57. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1968. xviii, 477 pp. \$12.50.

The richness and variety of Inkeles's ideas are presented in this collection of his major essays on the Soviet Union. Many of the twenty-one selections are by now classics of sociological literature and have established Inkeles as one of the major figures not only in Sovietology but also in sociology. According to Theodore Abel, distinguished teacher of Inkeles, the work of all masters of sociological craft has three common qualities: concern for the well-being of mankind, insight into the social structure of societies, and an attempt to understand the broader social changes affecting the world. By this definition Inkeles can be said to have achieved the status of one of the masters of sociology. His work has always been imbued with a humanitarian spirit and has shown concern for consolidating and increasing human freedom throughout the world. The present volume reflects this orientation beginning with the dedication and the first essay on "Social Change in Soviet Russia," and continuing through the last presentation entitled "Models and Issues in the Analysis of Soviet Society." Some sociologists think that Inkeles's knowledge and, therefore, fear of European totalitarianism has caused him to be too optimistic about the nature and future of American society. No one, however, questions the sincerity of his views.

Inkeles's most lasting contribution to sociology are the articles on the nature of social structure. These are "Social Stratification and Mobility in the Soviet Union" (1950), "National Comparisons of Occupational Prestige" (with Peter H. Rossi, 1956), "Multidimensional Ratings of Occupations" (with Peter H. Rossi and assisted by Robert Feldmesser, 1957), "Critical Letters to the Soviet Press" (with H. Kent Geiger, 1953), "Modal Personality and Adjustment to the Soviet Sociopolitical System" (with Eugenia Hanfmann and Helen Beier, 1958), "Social Stratification in the Modernization of Russia" (1960), and "Developments in Soviet Mass Communications" (revised, 1967). Probably his greatest insight into the nature of modern social organization is represented in the essay "The Totalitarian Mystique: Some Impressions of the Dynamics of Totalitarian Society," published as early as 1953. In this work Inkeles skillfully employs Max Weber's ideas on charismatic leadership in the analysis of Stalinist and Hitlerite totalitarian societies. Under his pen the concept is further illumined and refined. A charismatic leader is seen as one who is openly contemptuous of power for its own sake; he is one who seeks power for the sake of "his compulsion to make man and social development conform to the dictates of his particular perception of higher law. . . . The

mystique implies a plan for the good society." This essay more than any other in the book answers the question why such tyrants as Stalin and Hitler have been able to survive and even obtain support from many of their countrymen.

Much of Inkeles's effort in the 1960s has been devoted to the study of world-wide transformation through his large-scale research on six nations. As the title of the current book suggests, he has also been extremely interested in analyzing the changes in the Soviet Union. The opening section, entitled "Change and Continuity in Soviet Development," and the closing section, called "Comparative Perspectives on the Future," reflect this concern. The most significant of all these essays is the concluding selection, "Models and Issues in the Analysis of Soviet Society," originally a speech delivered before a select group of experts on Soviet society. Inkeles is forthright in admitting that the model of totalitarian society, to the development of which he himself has contributed so much effort, is no longer entirely applicable in the Soviet case. He suggests that we pay greater attention to other models, particularly to the developmental and industrial society models.

In his preface Inkeles feels compelled to explain why so few sociologists study Soviet society. He states that "sociology has lagged behind the contributions made in economics and political science." In the judgment of this reviewer, however, the work of Alex Inkeles alone is sufficient to claim an honorable place for sociology in the field of Soviet studies.

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**SOCIAL THOUGHT IN THE SOVIET UNION.** Edited, with an Introduction, by *Alex Simirenko*. Chicago: Quadrangle Books, 1969. 439 pp. \$14.95.

Since the death of Stalin in 1953 the social sciences and allied disciplines in the Soviet Union have been increasing rapidly in scales of effort, quality of output, and applicatory significance. In particular, law, economics, sociology, and economic geography have played measurable roles, over the past sixteen years, in Soviet sociopolitical evolution. Moreover, while most of the reported research of Soviet social scientists and allied professionals has been conceptually rather pedestrian, Soviet contributions to psychology have been seminal, world-wide.

The Soviets have pioneered in relating behavior intimately to neurophysiology, in developing realistic models of organismic cybernetics, and in using meticulous clinical observations on the behavior of man and of conditioned animals to detect the pathogenic effects of toxins and such forces as noise, vibration, and ionizing and microwave radiation. The Soviet behavioral tests have met with considerable skepticism abroad, but have recently been confirmed. American electroencephalographic studies, aided by refined computer programs to eliminate background effects, have verified Soviet clinical findings on the effects of low levels of ionizing and background radiation directly upon central nervous systems.

These facts make especially welcome the comprehensive, scholarly, well-documented, and generally dispassionate review of developments in social fields undertaken by Professor Simirenko and his collaborators. *Social Thought in the Soviet Union* consists of an introduction and twelve chapters, covering, respectively, social science ideology (William M. Mandel), philosophy (Eugene Kamenka), political science (Bohdan K. Bociurkiw), law (Donald D. Barry), historiography (Arthur P. Mendel), economics (Howard J. Sherman), character education (Urie Bronfenbrenner), psychology (John A. Molino), psychiatry (Isidore Ziferstein),