

DIE RUSSISCHE EMIGRATION IN DEUTSCHLAND, 1919–1929. By *Hans-Erich Volkmann*. Marburger Ostforschungen, vol. 26. Würzburg: Holzner-Verlag, 1966. viii, 154 pp. DM 34.50, paper.

There is as yet no history of Russian post-1917 mass emigration in any language. Dr. Volkmann's book is a small and partial—both chronologically and geographically speaking—contribution to such a history. He rightly sees the Russian emigration as the first manifestation of one of the major social phenomena of the last fifty years, and one which gave rise to one of the thorniest international problems of our days—the problem of refugees. He therefore discusses at some length, with reference to Russian émigrés in Germany in the 1920s, various forms of relief work, on both national and international levels, seeing in it a useful experience and an instructive lesson for the future. Not the least valuable feature of his study is the extensive use of various records, official and unofficial, previously not available.

Unlike his predecessor, Dr. Hans von Rimscha, whose two books on Russian emigration, published respectively in 1921 and 1927, he mentions in his preface, he limits himself to the Russian emigration in Germany and has little to say about its cultural activities (the last chapter of the book, dealing with literature, with Russian high schools in Berlin, and with the Russian Learned Institute, is only thirteen pages long). The main focus is on the social composition and the legal status of the Russian émigrés, and on their political activities and attitudes to Germany and her government. The longest chapter, the one about the political activities, is rather one-sided, inasmuch as it concentrates on the activities and personalities of the extreme right-wing monarchists, with much space devoted to the High Monarchist Council and its leaders, the Bad Reichenhall congress, and the role and views of Grand Duke Kirill, the pretender to the Russian throne. The episode with Bermond-Avalov and his "Western Army" adventure is also featured prominently, but this is apparently to be the subject of a longer separate study which Dr. Volkmann is preparing.

To those who, like the present reviewer, lived in Berlin between 1922 and 1924, Dr. Volkmann's account looks definitely lopsided. Despite the mention of various Russian newspapers and other periodicals published in Berlin in those days, despite the fact that several pages are devoted to the so-called *smenovekhovstvo*, the reader of the book will hardly be aware of the variety and richness of émigré cultural life in those days. After all, Berlin was not only the cultural center of the Russian emigration in the early 1920s; it was also a meeting place of émigré intellectuals with their Soviet counterparts, some of whom later went back while others became émigrés themselves. What is more, this Berlin-centered period was the only period in the pre-World War II history of Russian emigration when something of a dialogue, at least on a certain level, went on between the two Russias, when the Soviet intelligentsia inside Russia was not yet completely cut off from the Russians outside the country. This aspect of the situation is not even touched upon by the author.

On more than one occasion Dr. Volkmann disclaims his competence in the "cultural" area, and what he says about the cultural activities of the émigrés is inadequate and not free from errors. There are in the book a few mistakes in names and some misprints.

Appended to the book are tables illustrating the distribution of Russian newspapers and journals in the outside world; a chronological list of the most important

foreign (mostly German-language) press reports dealing with the Russian emigration; a list of archival and other sources; genealogical tables of the Russian imperial family; and an extensive and useful bibliography in which the Russian items are, however, somewhat haphazard. There is also an appendix containing three unpublished documents concerning Bermond-Avalov.

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RIZHSKII MIR: IZ ISTORII BOR'BY SOVETSKOGO PRAVITEL'STVA ZA USTANOVLENIE MIRNYKH OTNOSHENII S POL'SHEI (KONETS 1918—MART 1921 G.). By P. N. Olshansky. Moscow: "Nauka," 1969. 260 pp. 1 ruble, 7 kopeks.

The Treaty of Riga of 1921 is more of a "forgotten peace" than Brest-Litovsk was when Wheeler-Bennett devoted his excellent monograph to it. Except for the well-documented memoirs of the chief Polish delegate in Riga, there is no single study in any language dealing with this peace settlement which not only determined Soviet-Polish relations during the interwar period but stabilized the situation in East Central Europe for almost two decades. Hence the appearance of a Russian book entitled "The Riga Peace" is bound to arouse the interest of diplomatic historians.

Olshansky's slender volume is, however, totally disappointing. Nearly half of it concerns the preconference Soviet-Polish relations, and that part is filled with worn-out clichés, omissions, and misinterpretations. The two chapters that deal with peace negotiations at Minsk and Riga are hardly better. Although the author has made some use of Polish archives, he refers only seven or eight times (throughout the entire volume) to Soviet archival material, and in no case does he produce new or interesting evidence. It is surely paradoxical that this reviewer in his work on Soviet-Polish relations could bring forth more archival material—for instance the Trotsky papers—than a Soviet historian writing in Russia. Many important questions that could be answered only by dipping into the Soviet archives are ignored. One learns nothing about Soviet peace preparations, if any, on the eve of the stillborn Borisov conference. Marchlewski's diary, which is supposedly in Moscow, is not used. It is hard to imagine that the Russian delegation in Riga kept no protocols, and we do know that it was in frequent correspondence with Lenin. But Olshansky produces no material of this type and far too often uses as his sources *Pravda* or *Izvestiia*.

*Rizhskii mir* can hardly be regarded as a scholarly monograph, and its value to historians is minimal at best. It could only be useful to "Sovietologists" insofar as it may be indicative of trends in Soviet historiography. While it is not puzzling to see Trotsky and Radek mentioned only once each, it is surely interesting that Stalin's name does not appear in the book at all. The Red Army's defeat in Warsaw, which had once been explained as Tukhachevsky's fault, and then—for a brief period—as Stalin's, is now blamed by Olshansky on, of all people, Wrangel.

Based on little archival material, and ignoring monographs (even early Soviet ones) which are inconvenient to the author's thesis, Olshansky's book is a weak apologia for Soviet foreign policy in 1918–21.

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