

scarcity—these and many other problems are examined, making it apparent to the reader that it is often difficult to arrive at definitive conclusions. For instance, Pizar states frequently that Eastern export enterprises can be depended upon to keep contractual agreements to the letter, and he gives plausible reasons for their reliability (e.g., pp. 239–40, 325, and 329). Yet he points to cases where the Soviets have broken contractual agreements for political reasons, such as Stalin's denial of agreed-upon credits to Yugoslavia or the discontinuation of contractually confirmed oil deliveries to Israel after the 1956 Sinai campaign (pp. 257 and 334); and he warns that the Soviet state might on occasion effectively invalidate contracts signed by state enterprises (p. 360). The author ends the book with "fifty guiding principles" aimed at giving East-West trade the scope it needs to fulfill the peace-keeping functions he envisages for it. Most of Pizar's recommendations are obvious: allow the other side equal access to markets, unencumbered by political, diplomatic, and ideological considerations other than national security; eliminate discriminatory import duties; publish all laws, decrees, and court decisions pertinent to international economic relations; and so forth. Hence it is not the level of sophistication but rather the range and scope of these guidelines (subdivided into sections on "What the West Must Do," "What the East Must Do," "Accessibility to Eastern Markets," "Legal Protection," "Formulation and Fulfillment of Contracts," and "Cooperation of Governments") that make them of interest to the reader.

This is a book aimed at improving East-West relations. It is therefore regrettable that the author found it necessary to intersperse the text with statements of at least questionable validity intended to disparage communism or Communist countries. It makes little sense, for instance, to call communism an economic failure (p. 22) or to assert that Soviet aid to Hanoi and Havana is used for "obstinate attempts to undermine the governmental system of neighboring countries or even openly to subjugate them" (p. 198). The omission of such comments from future printings and editions would enable the work to serve more effectively the purposes for which it was intended.

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SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE: ORGANIZATION, OPERATIONS, AND POLICY, 1918–1971. By *Glen Alden Smith*. Praeger Special Studies in International Economics and Development. New York, Washington, London: Praeger Publishers, 1973. xviii, 370 pp. \$21.50.

Dr. Smith's book was written primarily for the use of businessmen interested in trade with the Soviet Union. Half of the text deals with the organizations involved in the conduct of foreign trade, and with such foreign trade operations as trade promotion and financing. The other half deals with Soviet trade policies and practices, both in general and specifically with the other socialist countries, the developing countries, and the West. To this broad range of topics the author adds a time dimension: the typical chapter starts with the first organizations established after the 1917 revolution and traces the history of organizational changes up to the present time.

Because of the broad scope of the book, the treatment of the material is fairly thin. A large part of the text is devoted to descriptions of the structure and functions of the various organizations that have been responsible for the conduct of

trade at various periods. The chapters that deal with trade policies and practices present only sketches of the facts and issues: Soviet trade with Comecon is discussed in fifteen pages, and trade with China in four.

The author draws extensively on both Russian and English-language sources, but his bibliography ignores many of the major scholarly works on the subject. The discussion of Comecon takes no note of Michael Kaser's work, and the subject of Western trade restrictions is treated without reference to Adler-Karlsson's provocative study.

The most valuable portion of the book for social scientists is the detailed description of the historical changes in the organizations involved in foreign trade. The scholarly reader, however, will find that the book does not break new ground, nor does it provide a significant restatement of old ground. The limited usefulness of the book for scholarly purposes is not in criticism of the book itself, which was written not for scholars but for businessmen. From that perspective the book is to be compared with Samuel Pizar's *Coexistence and Commerce*, which unfortunately is not mentioned in the bibliography but which continues to be the most important book on commercial trade with the USSR.

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SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN FOREIGN TRADE, 1946-1969: STATISTICAL COMPENDIUM AND GUIDE. By *Paul Marer*. Computer programs by *Gary J. Eubanks*. International Development Research Center Studies in Development, no. 4. Bloomington and London: Indiana University Press, 1972. xviii, 408 pp. \$15.00.

The main bugbear haunting Western researchers working in the field of socialist foreign trade has been the absence of complete and standardized statistics and of information on the methodologies used in the socialist countries in presenting their data. The volume being reviewed here, published under the wing of the International Development Research Center of the Indiana University, represents a long-awaited and courageous effort to overcome these difficulties. Nine countries are individually covered in the study—the USSR, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, Rumania, Yugoslavia, and Albania.

The book embodies a description and some rigorous analysis of the methods and practices underlying the organization and presentation of foreign trade statistics in the socialist countries. On the basis of these considerations, meaningful to Western readers, systematized tables have been prepared (expressed in current dollars), reconciled with United Nations classifications ("Standard International Trade Classification" and "Broad Economic Categories"). Statistical tables constitute four-fifths of the volume.

The book is divided into four parts. Part 1, "Introduction and Summary," provides a guide to the data presented in part 2, "Statistical Series." The methodology used in constructing the tables considered in part 3, "Notes and Documentation." Many specialists in the field will find part 4 most useful of all. It consists of seven appendixes, dealing with the United Nations and Comecon trade classifications, the problems of reconciliation, valuation, definitions, and unspecified Soviet exports; the last two appendixes contain standardized statistics on trade with the