

of terminology and expression, and the author's exasperating recourse to abbreviations. The reader will frequently waste time trying to make connections between terms, results, and conclusions in different parts of the book, or even deciding what is and what is not a typographical error. Examples include the statement of the error term on page 93, which is at variance with the expression in the equation; the entry "Bleu" in several tables, later "BLEU," which in either case the reader must work out for himself; the definitions relating to expression 2.2 (p. 176), or statements such as the following: "Since trade with the ASC's and the DC's occupies a small share of the CPE's' trade, the trend in the distribution of the CPE's' trade between CMEA and AC's is of special importance for later reference" (p. 187). Apart from the standard abbreviations, most of the others do not occur frequently enough to warrant this treatment and only hinder the reader's progress. None of this is made easier by the absence of an index.

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BALTIC HISTORY. Edited by *Arvids Ziedonis, Jr., William L. Winter and Mardi Valgemäe*. Publications of the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies, 5. Columbus, Ohio: Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies, Ohio State University, 1974. x, 341 pp. Paper.

OBERST VÄCIETIS UND DIE LETTISCHEN SCHÜTZEN IM WELTKRIEG UND IN DER OKTOBERREVOLUTION. By *Uldis Ģermanis*. Stockholm Studies in History, vol. 20. Stockholm: Almqvist and Wiksell, 1974. 336 pp. Paper.

SEARCH FOR SECURITY: A STUDY IN BALTIC DIPLOMACY, 1920-1934. By *Hugh I. Rodgers*. Hamden, Conn.: Archon Books, The Shoe String Press, 1975. xii, 181 pp. \$12.00.

PASAKYTA PARAŠYTA: KALBOS IR PAREIŠKIMAI II: 1935-1940. By *Antanas Smetona*. Edited by *Leonas Sabaliūnas* in collaboration with *Vincas Rastenis*. Boston: Lithuanian Encyclopedia Press, 1974. 350 pp.

The study of the various nationalities of the Soviet Union has commanded increasing attention from American scholars in recent years, and supportive organizations have proliferated. One such group is the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies (AABS), which has already held four biennial conferences and is publishing its own *Journal of Baltic Studies*. Not only has it brought together Latvian, Estonian, and Lithuanian scholars, it has also drawn in American and German scholars as well as Scandinavians and other East Europeans.

The proceedings of the first two conferences of the AABS were each summarized in single volumes. The third conference, held at the University of Toronto in May 1972, led to the publication of several volumes. *Baltic History* includes twenty-eight historical papers, loosely organized around the topics of the medieval Baltic states, the eighteenth century, the period between the two world wars, and Baltic foreign relations during World War II.

The papers range in length from six to twenty pages, and nine of them are written in German. In such a varied collection one is sure to find things to disagree with; in some contributions, for example, one might object to nationalist biases.

On the other hand, particularly interesting to me were the late Oswald Backus's speculations on the role of Baltic and Finnic peoples in Russian history, Georg von Rauch's brief essay on the impact of the Enlightenment and the French Revolution on the Baltic provinces, Michael Haltzel's analysis of the contradictions between administrative centralization and the policies of Russification among the Baltic Germans in the late nineteenth century, and Imre Lipping's study of the development of authoritarianism in Estonia between the two world wars.

Uldis Ģērmanis's study of Jakums Vācietis and the Latvian Rifles offers evidence that Baltic historians have much to offer even to such general subjects as the Bolshevik Revolution. The participation of Latvians in the October Revolution has often been noted but rarely understood. Names such as Lacis, Berzins, Vācietis, and Dzerzhinskii's deputy, Peters, appear in texts with little explanation as to how they rallied to the cause of the Bolsheviks. Ģērmanis has now provided a very useful biography of Vācietis, Soviet Russia's second commander-in-chief, together with an account of the history of the Latvian Rifles up to the October Revolution.

The Latvian Social Democrats had supported Lenin even before the First World War, and, although they had trouble reconciling the Bolshevik doctrine of "defeatism" with the advance of the Germans through Latvia in 1917, they were able to deliver the Latvian Rifles to the Bolshevik cause. Vācietis was himself a tsarist officer who maintained a strong rapport with his troops. He declared himself for the Bolsheviks only on the day of the revolution.

Ģērmanis had to surmount great problems in collecting materials for this study; there remain significant lacunae in his story. Nevertheless, the study is a most welcome contribution to the history of the Russian revolutions, and one can only wish him well in his desire to continue the story of the Latvian Rifles into the period of the Civil War.

Hugh Rodgers's study of Latvian foreign policy concerns itself with the Latvian conceptions of Baltic union. In contrast to the romantic, idealistic images of Baltic entente presented by some of the émigrés, Rodgers carefully studies the problems which the Latvians faced in adjusting to the realities of national antagonisms and petty rivalries in Eastern Europe. For some, a *modus vivendi* with Moscow and Berlin seemed desirable; others favored a grand alliance with Finland and Poland, as well as with Estonia and Lithuania. In the end, the Latvians only concluded an alliance with their two small neighbors.

Rodgers's characterizations of Meierovics, Ulmanis, and Cielens will be of use to all students of European diplomacy of the 1920s. His account of international events, however, suffers from heavy reliance on German materials. In particular, one might ask for a more careful analysis of both Polish and Soviet foreign policy.

The problem of collecting sources for the study of Baltic history is one which confronts all those who venture into this field. Ģērmanis partly resolved his problem in finding materials by carefully studying a broad selection of Latvian newspapers. Rodgers turned to the archives of the *Auswärtiges Amt* and of the U.S. State Department. The collection of writings and speeches by Antanas Smetona, the authoritarian president of Lithuania from 1926 to 1940, represents a major effort to expand the documentary base for Lithuanian history.

A man's public speeches and articles are not necessarily reliable sources for understanding a complex political personality, but in the absence of archival materials they have to serve. While still in office, Smetona had published a total of five

volumes of his works. Each bore a different title, and the volume of his speeches and writings as president between 1926 and 1935 was entitled *Pasakyta parašyta*. The volume under review, edited by Leonas Sabaliūnas, a historian, and Vincas Rastenis, a journalist, completes the collection for his last years in power. (Smetona fled Lithuania in 1940 and died four years later in Cleveland, Ohio.)

Smetona has drawn attacks from some, ironic condescension from others (as from John Gunther in his *Inside Europe*), and occasional apologetics from his supporters. Nevertheless, relatively little of a serious nature has been written about this man who was a professor of philosophy—he especially enjoyed discussing Plato—and who was also a master stylist of the Lithuanian language. Overall, while I question the editors' decision not to give the circumstances surrounding each of the 101 items included in the collection, the volume should be very useful to anyone working in twentieth-century Lithuanian history.

Although the books under review tend to emphasize the separate identity of the Baltic peoples, Gērmanis's study explicitly stresses the role of non-Russian nationalities in the Bolshevik Revolution. One can find a certain irony in a reprise of a major theme of monarchist political rhetoric of the 1920s, but such an approach does point up the usefulness of studying the smaller nationalities of the USSR. Baltic studies have made great progress in the West during the last decade, and there is now a significant corpus of literature on the history and culture of this region.

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THE 1917 REVOLUTION IN LATVIA. By *Andrew Ezergailis*. Boulder, Colo.: *East European Quarterly*, 1974. iv, 281 pp. \$12.50. Distributed by Columbia University Press, New York.

Pioneering works on the impact of the Russian empire's national-liberationist movements in 1917 are finally beginning to appear in English. Hopefully they will aid future writers of textbooks in "Russian" history to describe the revolutionary movement as the multinational phenomenon it really was. Preeminent Anglo-American scholarship on late nineteenth and twentieth-century Russia seemingly has been innocent of knowledge of the minority peoples or their languages. Ezergailis now helps to set the record straight concerning one of the oppressed peoples of tsarist Russia—the Latvians. The monumental role this tiny nation came to play in one of history's most crucial moments makes the work doubly valuable. Because of the peculiar circumstances surrounding the fate of Latvia during World War I, the Latvian military units remained alert and battle-ready even after the total collapse of the Russian imperial army in 1917. Choosing to side with Lenin, this military force helped to shake the world in November of 1917 and well beyond.

Andrew Ezergailis is a philosopher of history, a keen political scientist, and an expert on Marxism. Being the offspring of a veteran of the Latvian Rifle Brigade—the so-called elite guard of the October Revolution—has not marred his objectivity. His book is a painstaking analysis of very subtle aspects of Latvian national Marxism, which, as it happens, provides an essential agrarian cum national-liberationist key to the "science" of Leninism. History has amply revealed that