

Hence the publication of Gusta Singer's doctoral thesis (completed at the University of Pittsburgh) was a welcome event in circles interested in comparative education and the history of education. It is all the more significant that the first English work of any length on Polish education should deal with the basic issue of teacher education.

After briefly describing the Polish educational system, the author provides the historical context of teacher education during 1918–56. Then follows a detailed treatment of the organization and curriculum of teacher education and of the impact of the 1961 reform on the development of teacher training, with special stress on the role of the Polish United Workers' Party. The book ends with the year 1961, when "people could speak more freely after many years of fear and anxiety" (p. 192). A study of teacher preparation during the 1960s would be interesting by way of contrast.

No effort was made to compare the Polish system of teacher education with that of a non-Communist country. According to Dr. Singer, the underlying political forces are too diverse. It would have been pertinent to make some comparisons with one of the other Communist countries, perhaps Czechoslovakia or even Yugoslavia. In any event, the author was concerned with another approach to comparative education: the discovery of the basic forces that "influence and mold" Polish teacher education. This she has done with abundant documentation from Polish sources.

Also useful are the numerous charts and statistical tables, as is the thirty-page bibliography. It is a wonder that there are only a few misprints in the Polish.

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SOVIET PERSPECTIVES ON AFRICAN SOCIALISM. By *Arthur Jay Klinghoffer*. Rutherford, Madison, and Teaneck: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1969. 276 pp. \$8.00.

"Socialism" has become almost a magic word in the new countries of Africa, synonymous with development. Naturally the Soviet Union, which considers itself the "first" among socialist states, glories in the wide popularity of socialism in the underdeveloped world. But at the same time the USSR is well aware that what the Africans call socialism often has little relationship to what Soviet writers call "scientific socialism" of Marxism-Leninism, and that some of it is even hostile to Soviet interests. This small volume by Professor Klinghoffer of Fairleigh Dickinson University is a study in detail of the Soviet attitude toward the various strains of African socialism and Soviet politicians and scholars' interpretation of developments in Africa from 1955 to 1964. The guide points for the Soviet line on Africa were set by Khrushchev, who was actively interested in that area, supplemented with an occasional article in *Kommunist*, the official journal of the party. It was left primarily to Ivan Potekhin and his African Institute, which was founded in 1959 and affiliated with the Soviet Academy of Science, to justify and explain Khrushchev's pronouncements in the light of Marxism-Leninism and to adapt them to African developments. It was Potekhin who largely dictated Soviet scholarship on Africa.

Klinghoffer chose to analyze Soviet views according to the traditional subjects of Communist ideology: roads to socialism, the proletariat, the national bourgeoisie,

the peasantry, and so forth. Unfortunately this topical approach forced the author to be repetitious, restating the basic Soviet positions several times; but more important, it made it difficult for the author to analyze changes of Soviet attitudes over time and to indicate what close connection, if any, there was between Soviet policies and scholarship under Khrushchev. The author himself seems well aware of the importance of these questions and points out some of the shifts in attitude. He spends some time, for example, examining the turn to a more leftist line in 1959–60 (p. 165). But the basic mode of analysis chosen by the author makes it impossible to follow the shifts in detail. Yet it is the relationship between the ideological interpretations and policy which is the most interesting aspect of the problem to the social scientist.

Nevertheless, in the opinion of this reviewer the book provides an excellent and detailed survey of the rapidly growing Soviet scholarship on Africa and, in particular, a definitive compilation of the views published by Soviet scholars and writers for general consumption during the period 1955–64.

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DAS AMERIKABILD IM RUSSISCHEN SCHRIFTTUM BIS ZUM ENDE DES 19. JAHRHUNDERTS. By *Dieter Boden*. Universität Hamburg, Abhandlungen aus dem Gebiet der Auslandskunde, vol. 71: Series B (Völkerkunde, Kulturgeschichte und Sprachen), vol. 41. Hamburg: Cram, De Gruyter, 1968. ix, 209 pp.

This study, which spans the period from the first encounters of Russian literature with the idea and concept of America in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries to the end of the nineteenth century, is a significant contribution to the larger subject of Russian-American intellectual relations, a comprehensive history of which has not yet been written. Boden traces the evolution of the American image in Russian literature from the exotic and utopian notions in the cosmographies and earliest travel accounts (Karzhavin, Svinin, Evstafiev, and Poletika) to the more realistic and critical conceptions elaborated in the contemporary novels and journalistic literature of the late nineteenth century, and, finally, to the destruction of the "legend of America as the most democratic and happiest of all countries" (p. 187) in the caricatures and satires of Gorky. Boden's work includes a masterful description and analysis of the interplay between the exotic-romantic tradition in Russian literature on America and the gradual development of an essentially political and social-critical New World literature for which Radishchev laid the foundation. The author skillfully demonstrates the "idealistic and programmatic" character of Russian literature on America, which—beginning with the works of Novikov and Radishchev—showed a strong tendency to recognize and illustrate in the example of the United States the social and political problems of Russia (pp. 43 ff.) and consequently lacked realism and a strongly developed factual orientation.

The value of the present study is enhanced by the fact that the author has chosen to view the evolution of the American image in Russian literature against the background and within the larger context of the development of European literature. Thus, for example, he shows how the Russian literary image of America was influenced by West European (especially French) exoticism, by anti-Spanish tendencies in European literature, by the romanticism of Chateaubriand, and by