

it was still difficult for him to contain within a hundred or so pages an assessment of a colonization which itself constitutes only a part of a much broader movement, with which he seems only imperfectly familiar. Moreover, the work is given a form less historical and human than statistical and geographical, and sometimes leaves the reader hungry for more.

Likewise the theoretical reflections (pp. 67–74) of Mr. Demko on the “model” of migration to Kazakhstan, showing lack of sufficient familiarity with the Russian past, leave the reader skeptical. For example, could not the relative predominance of the trans-Volgan peasants in Kazakhstan, which perplexes the author, be explained—without even mentioning climatic and pedological similarities of the two regions—by the pioneer traditions of these provinces where the population was yet far from stabilized? One may also regret that the author contented himself with data, unavoidably incomplete, from the census of 1926. Is there really no more thorough sampling to be found among all the statistical surveys of the last years of tsarism? And must any comparison with the rest of Siberia as regards the place of origin of the migrants be avoided? But this would have obliged the author to extend his investigation and also his bibliography, which regrettably lacks any publication of the Siberian filial of the Imperial Academy of Geography and many articles from prerevolutionary journals, which would have permitted him to diversify his references with good results. In sum, Mr. Demko has performed a useful task, even if his work does not keep all its promises; it provides a convenient and manageable springboard for further research.

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CITIES OF THE SOVIET UNION: STUDIES IN THEIR FUNCTIONS, SIZE, DENSITY, AND GROWTH. By *Chauncy D. Harris*. Chicago: Rand McNally, 1970. xxviii, 484 pp. \$9.95.

Over the last decade or so the typical Russian—previously a peasant—has become an urbanite, and the metamorphosis continues. Among other things, this process has created a significant geographical pattern, and this book is the most comprehensive and accurate analysis of that pattern yet to appear in English, probably in any language. Professor Harris was undoubtedly the man to tackle this assignment. Over a quarter-century ago he published a pioneering attempt at a functional classification of Soviet cities—previously neglected by the Soviet geographers themselves—and then spent much time in the Soviet Union making an exhaustive study of subsequent work done by Soviet and other urban geographers. The bibliography of this work, running to over a thousand items, is a major achievement in itself, and there is a very useful chapter which assesses, with considerable courtesy, postwar Soviet research on their own cities.

Harris's concern throughout is to analyze the dynamics of the urbanization process in a spatial context, focusing on such matters as the relative population size hierarchies of some twelve hundred Soviet cities, their functions (economic and administrative), accessibility, growth rates, and so on. Thus, although he goes back as far as the early nineteenth century and also considers individual cities to a degree, his basic material—largely from the censuses and other population estimates—is deliberately limited to what is amenable to statistical analysis. He applies theories developed in the West, such as Central Place Theory, and statistical

concepts like "population potential" (which considers distance of the national or regional population from the city in question as well as its size). He analyzes some thirty "principal components" for his cities, in search of "statistical regularities" and a system of functional urban regions. While this may seem dauntingly technical, particularly to the generality of Slavic scholars, and does not always make for easy reading, it is firmly grounded in and illuminates the realities of Soviet regional development.

Nearly half the book is concerned with the *growth* of the urban population, from an estimated 3 million in 1811 to over 130 million today, thus squarely avoiding the weakness of some American work in urban geography—an unduly superficial preoccupation with contemporary systems. We are thus shown the dimensions, for example, of the nineteenth-century growth of the cities of "New Russia," the unprecedented intensity of industrial urbanization in the 1930s, and the dominant growth of the "interior core" from the Volga to Lake Baikal between 1939 and 1959, to help us understand the geographically more evenly spread regional growth of the last decade. Interesting facts emerge, such as that Kiev, key city of the early Slavs, is the most "accessible" large city to the whole population of the Comecon bloc, and that despite Soviet centralism Moscow has a much smaller percentage of the national population than any other major world capital. Soviet cities emerge as more exclusively shaped by industrial and administrative concerns than those of comparable countries.

Some readers will be disappointed not to find here discussions of the internal structure, planning problems, land use, physiognomy, site or historical origin of particular cities, or an evocation of the distinctive character or "feel" of "the Soviet city" as compared with its Western counterparts—topics which were deliberately excluded from Harris's terms of reference. But as a scientific geographical analysis of the complex processes of accelerated urbanization, the book will be an invaluable reference for anyone concerned with developments in general in the Soviet Union or the course of the world phenomenon of urbanization.

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NASELENIE BOL'SHOGO SOTSIALISTICHESKOGO GORODA. By M. V. Kurman and I. V. Lebedinsky. Moscow: "Statistika," 1968. 200 pp. 86 kopeks.

This is a refreshing book. In contrast to most other studies of population matters that have been issued in the Soviet Union during the past few years it offers a wealth of data and a rigor of analysis which are most welcome. Since Khrushchev loosened the controls over publication in the late 1950s there has been an increasing flow of articles and monographs on population. Many of these studies have been concerned with population geography, as is well described and summarized in Chauncy D. Harris's admirable *Cities of the Soviet Union* (Chicago, 1970). Some of the publications are about population policy, a few are basic textbooks on demographic methods, and a small number have been devoted to descriptive-analytic studies of the populations of specific areas within the USSR. The latter publications are based primarily on previously published data from the 1926, 1939, and 1959 censuses, and are largely barren of new insights. One notable exception is the book by the well-known Soviet demographer, B. Ts. Uralnis, *Istoriia odnogo pokoleniia*