

YEARBOOK ON INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST AFFAIRS, 1969. Edited by *Richard F. Staar*. Stanford: Hoover Institution Press, 1970. xii, 1170 pp. \$19.50.

In a period of escalating book prices, it is a pleasure to report that this volume, the third annual issue covering the calendar year 1968, has been reduced from \$25.00 to \$19.50, at no sacrifice to its bulk. Although the format remains roughly the same, the distribution of emphasis has changed: all but some two hundred pages is devoted to the "Profiles of Individual Communist Parties," with the section on "Documents" unfortunately cut by three-fourths. What the reader primarily gets for his money is an updating of the activities of the Communist parties in the context of some basic data carried over from previous volumes. This has its uses. Nevertheless, the volume remains open to previous criticism of its treatment of membership and membership statistics, and of the phenomenon of communism as an international movement. (See *Slavic Review*, December 1970, pp. 704–5, and for a fuller description of the contents of the *Yearbook*.)

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EASTERN EUROPE: POLITICS, REVOLUTION, AND DIPLOMACY. By *Henry L. Roberts*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1970. xiv, 332 pp. \$6.95.

This book is a compilation of essays by a well-established scholar, who has done much to contribute to the growth and development of Slavic studies since the Second World War. The essays were written during various phases of Professor Roberts's career and thereby reflect the range of his substantive interests, but as a result there is a slight unevenness of both content and organization. The author himself states that after thinking about revising the various pieces he decided against it, feeling that they should stand as conceived, "warts and all."

The substance of the essays varies from thoughtful monologues about problems of historical analysis in Eastern Europe, through several rather detailed case studies of individuals and situations in that part of the world, to some reflective (and sometimes casual) observations on Soviet behavior and its importance for U.S. policy concerns. My feeling is that Roberts is at his best in the detailed analyses of diplomatic case histories (e.g., those of Litvinov and Colonel Beck). Here he stays close to his materials and provides us with useful insights into the intrigues, the subtleties of behavior, and the paradoxes of such important diplomatic figures. I found the lessons in the historiography of Eastern Europe to be less instructive and stimulating, although of more than a simple passing interest to those who have worked in the field. The weakest essays, in my view, come in part 3, where Roberts moves from more strictly academic discourse into policy-related discussions that concern Soviet-American relations. The book might also be criticized for its unevenness from chapter to chapter, which, however, is understandable considering that it brings together bits and pieces from a man's lifework. The basic integrative principle in the volume is the man himself, rather than any specific substantive focus. Nonetheless, the several essays are written in an easy and intelligent style, such that the volume taken as a whole is a pleasurable experience to read. The principal utility and relevance of the book is thus its contribution in documenting the intellectual history of a major scholar in the Slavic field.

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