

COMECON: PROGRESS AND PROSPECTS. NATO-Directorate of Economic Affairs, series no. 6. Brussels: NATO-Directorate of Economic Affairs, 1977. 282 pp.

*Comecon: Progress and Prospects* presents the papers given at a 1977 colloquium sponsored by NATO's Directorate of Economic Affairs. The collection evaluates Comecon integration by treating such basic issues as: How well integrated is Comecon relative to full economic merger among its members? Has significant integration occurred since the 1971 Complex Program? What are the specific integrative features in Comecon? What is the role of the Soviet Union, which dominates the organization economically, politically, and militarily?

Chapters by Weisskopf, Smith, and Lascelles, which consider the past and future evolution of Comecon, generally conclude that the council is still far from comprehensive integration and that the Complex Program has not had a particularly great impact. Marer and Fallenbuchl sketch CMEA trade relations which are marked by a radial pattern of especially strong links between the USSR as the dominant center and the other smaller states. Soviet-East European trade, furthermore, manifests a substantial complementarity in which Soviet raw materials are exchanged for East European industrial products. As outlined in the Bethkenhagen and Smith contributions, growing East European dependence on Soviet raw materials, especially energy, has led to recent joint projects and agreements which have the potential to promote further integration through supranational planning. Jacobsen, Machowski, and Joseph examine, respectively, Comecon banks (the IBEC and IIB), international economic organizations, and standardization efforts. They indicate that none of these organs plays a strongly integrative role. Probably the most important reason for this is the well-known CMEA failure to provide market (or alternative) "rational" criteria for economic decisions, and this problem becomes very evident in Lemoine's analysis of price structure and pricing policies during the history of CMEA. Other potential problems for integration derive from growing trade with and indebtedness to the West as described by Cviic and Lascelles and from the decline in the improvement of living standards found by Bush, although the ties with developing countries examined by Knirsch seem to have little effect on CMEA integration. In sum, as Weisskopf concludes, "It seems that each COMECON country, far from seeking comprehensive integration with its partners, is planning and proceeding on its own" (p. 31).

Two additional chapters would have been valuable: (1) a general treatment of the political and economic objectives of the various CMEA nations and organizations, and (2) an empirical evaluation of the progress in specialization agreements. Overall though, the book provides a worthwhile analysis of the fundamental features of Comecon and should be of interest to both economists and political scientists.

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ZEMLJE SEV-A U SVETSKOJ PRIVREDI. By *Edita Stojić-Imamović*. Belgrade: Institut za Međunarodnu Politiku i Privredu, 1976. 215 pp.

In recent years the countries of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA) have been engaged in efforts to expand the degree of economic cooperation and integration with one another. In addition, however, they have also greatly increased their involvement in the world economy and their economic ties with non-socialist countries outside the CMEA. In *Zemlje SEV-a u svetskoj privredi* (*The CMEA Countries in the World Economy*), Dr. Edita Stojić-Imamović of the Institute for International Politics and Economics in Belgrade presents a concise examination of the development of both of these processes. The author begins her analysis

with a survey of the international political and economic environment at the time of the CMEA's founding in 1949 and traces the evolution of the foreign economic policies of the CMEA countries during the 1950s and 1960s. The major and most important sections of the book, however, treat the more recent period of expanding East-West commercial relations.

Dr. Stojić-Imamović points to the negative impact of the long-term isolation of the CMEA economies from the world economy in areas such as increases in productivity, efficiency, and technological development. Although rapid economic growth did in fact occur in the socialist states, the qualitative aspects of that growth were seriously impeded. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, this fact played an important role in influencing the decisions of the CMEA countries to seek an expansion of various types of economic relations with the industrial West. However, as Dr. Stojić-Imamović notes, a number of serious problems continue to limit the ability of CMEA states to expand their involvement in the world economy. Most important is the stultifying effect of central planning and administration on the growth of foreign trade. In addition, the absence of rational pricing systems and the separation of domestic and foreign trade prices, the state monopoly of foreign trade, and the absence of convertible currency all hinder both the growth of economic cooperation within the CMEA and the greater involvement of the CMEA countries in the world economy.

The author concludes her study on a note of pessimism concerning the future prospects for expanded participation of the CMEA countries in the world economy. The most immediate requirement for more effective CMEA involvement, she maintains, is the development of a market system of prices both within the individual CMEA countries and within the CMEA region. However, as long as central planning and central control of pricing and foreign trade exist in the CMEA countries, such a market system will not develop, and one of the prerequisites for expanded involvement will continue to be lacking.

*Zemlje SEV-a u svetskoj privredi* provides a perceptive introduction to the foreign economic policies of the CMEA states, especially as they relate to intra-CMEA cooperation and integration and CMEA involvement in the world economy, although the line of argumentation followed by the author is quite familiar to the Western student of socialist foreign economic relations.

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POPULATION AND MIGRATION TRENDS IN EASTERN EUROPE. Edited by Huey Louis Kostanick. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1977. xiv, 247 pp. \$17.50.

The articles in this collection derive from a conference held at the University of California, Los Angeles, in February 1976. They provide a reasonably thorough introduction to the study of migration in Eastern Europe, which is viewed as a "transition zone with unique characteristics of its own." The authors are principally concerned with the unusually rapid industrialization and urbanization which have occurred since the "demographic watershed" of 1945. Conscious planning has automatically raised questions of optimum population distribution and the government policies required for its achievement.

The useful survey of demographic trends in northeastern Europe by Kosiński is nicely complemented by Demko and Fuchs's study of urban and regional planning in the same countries. The latter paper directly addresses the question of distribution policy, offering a useful distinction between incentive and control approaches. Evaluation of policy effectiveness in terms of the relative importance of "population-responsive" versus "population-influencing" measures is less satisfactory because of the sub-