

present unsolved problems of dating and attribution. Second, in an "official" (granting for the moment that designation) chronicle of a powerful but not very subtle government, why such delicacy? And finally—a nagging question throughout—in whose eyes is this literature "justifying" the conquest? Before which court of law or public opinion did it need to be "legitimized"? Doubtless an occasional churchly scribe might praise his prince after the fact and rejoice in the victory of the Cross over the Crescent, but I find it a long jump from these scattered comments and exultations to an "imperial ideology."

In sum one must commend (and not only *pro forma*) Professor Pelenski for a truly impressive scholarly labor whose fruits will be of considerable usefulness to scholars for some time to come, while remaining unconvinced that Muscovy in the sixteenth century was consciously developing a systematic or abstract theory of legitimization or justification of its conquests. Moscow's political system was pragmatic and brutally efficient; its "political establishment" in the sixteenth century was building an empire, not an ideology.

EDWARD L. KEENAN  
*Harvard University*

A FORGOTTEN EMPRESS: ANNA IVANOVNA AND HER ERA, 1730–1740. By *Mina Curtiss*. New York: Frederick Ungar, 1974. xvi, 335 pp. \$12.50.

Mina Curtiss makes a spirited effort to recall Empress Anne and her reign from a long lapse of professional interest. Historians indeed too often pass by the 1730s with a sneer. As Curtiss rightly points out, Anne's reign was in some respects a seminal one and deserves greater attention than it normally receives. The cause is a good one, the execution less so. The book suffers from the usual defects of amateur, anecdotal history. Dates and other facts frequently get twisted, and there is a heavy reliance on outmoded and ill-founded interpretations. Much material is simply lifted with little sifting from the contemporary accounts of Rondeau, Manstein, and Algarotti, and also from Waliszewski's well-known survey.

Still, the work contains some sparkling descriptions of court life and manners. Connoisseurs of such things will relish the lengthy catalogues of ceremony and attire, not to mention an entire chapter on the famous Ice Palace. Finally, without hiding the blemishes, Curtiss presents a sympathetic portrait of Empress Anne and brings to our attention some forgotten minor characters of the 1730s.

DAVID L. RANSEL  
*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign*

MODERNIZATION OF RUSSIA UNDER PETER I AND CATHERINE II.

Edited by *Basil Dmytryshyn*. Major Issues in History. New York and Toronto: John Wiley & Sons, 1974. xi, 157 pp. Paper.

Designed for use in a freshman-sophomore survey course, this book of readings combines the necessary brevity with some depth and some variation of interpretation. Parallel sections on Peter I and Catherine II contain a sample of each ruler's handiwork, observations by contemporaries, discussions by eighteenth and nine-