

POST-WAR EUROPE: A POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY. By *Mark Blacksell*.
Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1977. 205 pp. Tables. Figures. \$16.00.

Blacksell's study on postwar Europe aims to present, in the short space of less than two hundred textual pages, a mass of social, economic, and political facts of life, emphasizing the various East and West European integration movements, their objectives, and their problems that have come about since World War II. In nine brief chapters, Blacksell tries to accomplish what numerous geographers and many more social scientists have done in the last few years in individual in-depth studies.

The author's criticism of geographers' reluctance to include "regional political assessments in their writings" (introduction, p. 12) is certainly not borne out, even in a quick perusal of recent writings. Other critical comments, such as the geographer's concern for "general principles and philosophy, rather than with the regional impact of political events," only show, in this reviewer's opinion, a certain lack of knowledge of the writings of geographers on the numerous regional problems of the various European nation-states and, even further, nescience of the basic objectives in analyzing spatial changes of the European scene. Writings by Gottmann, Hall, Hamilton, Hoffman, Mellor, Nystrom, Parker, and others, and the valuable short analytical studies edited by Scargill in the Problem Regions of Europe series all give considerable attention to the regional impact of political events.

The book is organized around nine chapters, including a very debatable introduction, at least as it concerns the subchapter entitled "Political Geography and the New Europe." The last chapter, "Future of Europe," clearly indicates the difficulty in making regional political assessments in a rapidly changing political scene. The author himself emphasizes the "hazardous occupation of predicting social and economic trends." Although the preface is dated January 1977, most of the discussions end with developments in mid-1974, many of which, as is well known, have already been overtaken by later events resulting quite often in outdated economic and political assessments. The whole impact of the economic slowdown after 1974 could not have been foreseen; it raised numerous spatial problems, and its influence on the European regional scene is still difficult to evaluate (partly because of slowly available regional statistics). Statistical data summarized in five tables are generally outdated; a book published in 1977 certainly should include statistics published by the European Community's Statistical Office, the Economic Commission of Europe, the United Nations, and the CMEA Statistical Office for 1975.

In spite of the above criticism indicating the author's lack of knowledge of the writings by geographers, Blacksell's study is certainly not without its merits. The greatest value of the study lies in the fact that the author has brought together in a very readable manner the dimensions of change and economic interaction in Europe since World War II by discussing the numerous new international organizations. This is a useful undertaking, but certainly not a unique study in the spatial aspects of political geography.

GEORGE W. HOFFMAN
University of Texas, Austin

UMWELTSCHUTZ UND ÖKONOMISCHES SYSTEM IN OSTEUROPA.
DREI BEISPIELE: SOWJETUNION, DDR, UNGARN. By *Hans-Hermann
Höhmann, Gertraud Seidenstecher, and Thomas Vajna*. Stuttgart: Verlag W.
Kohlhammer, 1973. 175 pp. DM 25, paper.

During the past decade it has become clear that Communist political systems are not immune to the environmental problems faced by the industrialized states of the West. *Umweltschutz und ökonomisches System in Osteuropa* is one of the first Western

attempts to examine the extent of environmental pollution in European Communist states and the policies initiated in order to deal with the problem. This brief volume, sponsored by the Federal Institute for East European and International Studies in Cologne, examines environmental problems and policies in three Communist states—the Soviet Union (by Hans-Hermann Höhmann and Gertraud Seidenstecher), the German Democratic Republic (by Gertraud Seidenstecher), and Hungary (by Thomas Vajna). The volume is primarily descriptive and attempts to provide basic information on both the level and types of environmental problems faced by the three countries and the policies implemented to deal with those problems.

Although the three sections of the book—dealing individually with the three countries—do not follow the same organizational format, they all attempt to assess the dimensions of the environmental problems faced by the USSR, the GDR, and Hungary, the basic causes for the problems, and the measures designed to deal with them. The authors note that among the causes of environmental deterioration in Communist states are several that are generally not shared by non-Communist industrial states. First is the theoretical assumption of Marxist economic theory that labor alone, and not natural resources, is the source of value. This has resulted in the idea that natural resources are a sort of “free good.” In addition, the emphasis on industrial growth at all costs has resulted in a planning system which does not take into account the negative environmental implications of such growth. Water pollution, air pollution, soil erosion, and so forth have been a major concomitant of growth.

Until the late 1960s, the political leaders of all three Communist states tended to ignore the growing evidence that environmental problems could arise in a “socialist” state. Since then a number of efforts—ranging from educational programs to legal and administrative measures—have been introduced in order to alleviate and improve the situation. Since these programs were only beginning to be implemented in 1973, little evidence was available by which the authors could judge their effectiveness.

Umweltschutz und ökonomisches System in Osteuropa is a useful introduction to the subject of environmental problems in Eastern Europe, although it has been surpassed by several more recently published books on the subject.

ROGER E. KANET

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

VOLYN' I POLISSIA: NIMETS'KA OKUPATSIIA. Book 1, with English Summaries. *Litopys ukrains'koi povstans'koi armii*, vol. 1. Toronto: “Litopys UPA,” 1976. 255 pp. \$7.50.

For scholars of politics in its more violent forms, the appearance of the first volume in a series of documentary collections on the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (*Ukrains'ka Povstans'ka Armiia*, abbreviated UPA) in World War II should be welcome. The aim of the multivolume work is to publish UPA documents available in the West, thus making them accessible to historians and other researchers.

Dealing only with the beginning of the insurgency in 1943 and limited to the northwestern regions of Volyn' and Polissia, the volume under review contains a variety of materials. These include useful historical sketches of the origins and operations of the UPA and an outline of Nazi German policy in the Ukraine, all written by leading figures in the Ukrainian liberationist movement. The second and third sections contain a few propaganda pieces which outline the UPA's political program and call for support. (Also included in this section, but for no readily apparent reason, is a brief article on military defenses and obstacles.) The book is rounded out with a set of military instructions (very similar to any other military directives), a political appeal to other nationals to join the UPA in its struggle against Soviet and German imperialism, a report on the First Conference