

RUSSIA UNDER CATHERINE THE GREAT, vol. 2: CATHERINE THE GREAT'S INSTRUCTION (NAKAZ) TO THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION, 1767. Edited by *Paul Dukes*. Newtonville, Mass.: Oriental Research Partners, 1977. 129 pp. \$12.00, cloth. \$5.50, paper.

This volume presents a recently discovered English translation of Catherine's Instruction to the Legislative Commission of 1767–68. On the basis of information provided by Robert Allen of the Library of Congress, Professor Dukes introduces it as a translation which was "almost certainly" commissioned by Sir George Macartney—then British ambassador to St. Petersburg—probably early in 1767. Who did the translating is unknown. But Dukes finds the "Macartney" translation superior to the 1768 version ascribed to "Michael Tatischeff" and familiar to English-reading students through W. F. Reddaway's collection of documents. Following the example of N. D. Chechulin, Dukes has appended to the Macartney text the pair of supplemental chapters promulgated in 1768 and the Instruction to the procurator general of the Legislative Commission, which Dukes himself translated. He has also supplied an introduction, a bibliography, and some notes correcting the Macartney text.

Of the two English translations, this one appears superior. It is more succinct and its language is chosen more carefully. But in several respects the editorial information included is less helpful than one would wish. Instead of accompanying the text, Dukes's notes follow it. His introduction does not present the apparent strengths of the Macartney text—for example, the choice of "absolute government" over "monarchy" for *samoderzhavnoe pravlenie* (article 13)—nor does he discuss the inherently subjective nature of all translations (Catherine's original French for the same phrase is *Souveraineté*). Finally, for the most part, the introduction merely reports what others have said about the Instruction, its intellectual antecedents, or its merits. The resulting potpourri resembles a Heath pamphlet, with the utility and limitations that this implies. There is no room for attention to the contexts within which ideas were received and opinions given.

Near the end of his introduction Dukes writes that to understand the Instruction, "the economic resurgence of the 1760's must be examined as well as the political situation of the Russian empire and of Catherine and her entourage." These issues are already receiving serious attention, however. It is unfortunate that Dukes chose not to include the results of such attention in this book.

KAREN RASMUSSEN

Indiana University, South Bend

THE COLLABORATION OF NEČAEV, OGAREV AND BAKUNIN IN 1869, NEČAEV'S EARLY YEARS. By *Stephen T. Cochrane*. Osteuropastudien der Hochschulen des Landes Hessen, series 2. Marburger Abhandlungen zur Geschichte und Kultur Osteuropas, vol. 18. Giessen: Wilhelm Schmitz Verlag, 1977. x, 365 pp. DM 70, paper.

Dr. Cochrane has surely earned his degree with this well-researched dissertation. It is one of the few scholarly examinations of Nechaev's career and, by any measure, the most generous of the recent ones. Though Cochrane evidently did not have direct access to Soviet archives, he has made excellent use of the materials made available by B. P. Koz'min (the most assiduous Soviet historian who studied the 1860s), newer documentary collections published by Arthur Lehning and Michael Confino, and other materials provided by helpful scholars. Furthermore, he has painstakingly tracked down the Nechaev materials available in the West. To his credit, Cochrane does not simply go over earlier ground. He has sifted the evidence meticulously and rejected errors made by previous students of Nechaev, who often perpetuated each others' mistakes.

Cochrane has delved into the meager body of material on Nechaev's childhood and early adolescence and has made better use of it than did Venturi, for example. That he was not able to see some of the inconsistencies in the data and is probably slightly wrong about Nechaev's age at certain important junctures is not crucial, since the contribution of the dissertation lies more in the textual analysis of later works than in its analysis of Nechaev's personality. There is one error that is worth noting. Cochrane's interpretation of Nechaev's sister's memoirs leads him to state that Nechaev had worked as a messenger boy in a textile factory for only a week in 1856 or 1857, but the memoirs do not really permit a reader to infer a precise time span, and other evidence suggests that Nechaev was older than nine or ten when he left the factory. More generally, Cochrane is at his shakiest when he tries to derive psychological conclusions from the data. I was puzzled by the assertion that Nechaev had "an essentially happy although psychologically abnormal childhood due to his mother's death and father's absence" (p. 15).

When dealing with the year 1869 and Nechaev's relationships with Ogarev and Bakunin, Cochrane is usually accurate and on solid ground. His careful and sensitive scrutiny of the style and substance of Nechaev's, Ogarev's, and Bakunin's writings surpasses most previous scholarship. Aside from his excellent study of the "Catechism of a Revolutionary" and other documents attributed to Nechaev, Bakunin, or to their collaboration, Cochrane has carefully reviewed Ogarev's frequently neglected contribution. The ephemeral character of most of the proclamations associated with Nechaev's career was responsible for much scholarly neglect, but the tendency of Bakunin and Ogarev scholars (there are very few Nechaev scholars as such) to minimize the roles of the older men surely explains many of the errors in recent scholarship. Cochrane has helped to set the historical record straight. On the other hand, his evaluation of Venturi's chapter on Nechaev in *Roots of Revolution*—that it does not "crystallize" Nechaev's personality for the reader—holds true, at least for this reader, for Cochrane's own treatment of Nechaev.

PHILIP POMPER
Wesleyan University

COLD SPRING IN RUSSIA. By *Olga Chernov Andreyev*. Foreword by *Arthur Miller*. Translated by *Michael Carlisle*. Ann Arbor: Ardis, 1978. x, 283 pp. + 6 pp. photographs. \$13.95, cloth. \$6.95, paper.

This memoir by the adopted daughter of the prominent Socialist Revolutionary, Victor Chernov, is a sad book. Its pages are premeated with a sense of suffering and tragedy. The author's happy childhood memories of life in France and Italy—a period over which later events cast a shadow that is clearly discernible in the narrative—provide a sharp contrast to the wretchedness of the family's existence upon their return to Russia in 1917. The euphoria of the tsar's fall quickly turned into despair as the Bolsheviks pushed the Provisional Government from power, dispersed the Constituent Assembly, and suppressed their political opponents. Olga Andreyev vividly portrays the plight of a family who not only had to struggle to eat and keep warm in the chaotic aftermath of October, but who also constantly had to hide their identity from the Cheka. The overwhelming sense of tragedy is lightened to some extent by the author's portrayal of the strength of the bond which united the Chernov family and enabled them to overcome all the trials that confronted them—their frequent separation, incarceration by Soviet authorities, and the omnipresent struggle to survive. Nevertheless, it is the tragedy of the situation that is the book's strongest theme, the tragedy of the impact of great historical events on the lives of ordinary people.