

MYKOLA SKRYPNYK. By *Ivan Koshelivets'*. Munich: "Suchasnist'," 1972. 342 pp. \$9.00, cloth. \$7.00, paper.

This biography of Mykola Skrypnyk, an Old Bolshevik and probably the most prominent Ukrainian Communist of the pre-Stalinist period, constitutes the first part of a two-volume project, which will soon be concluded with a selection of Skrypnyk's works on the national question.

The author, a literary critic rather than an historian, has attempted to provide his readers with a political biography. In this he is not always successful. Given the important role played by Skrypnyk, not only in the Ukraine but in Soviet politics as a whole and in the Comintern, such an undertaking requires thorough analysis of the political culture of the 1920s and the major issues in Soviet politics at that time. This is often lacking in Koshelivets's book. He tends to concentrate on specific problems (for example, Skrypnyk's role in the organization of the Communist Party of the Ukraine, his participation in the debates on the formation of the USSR, his work in the area of Ukrainization), sacrificing a sense of continuity in the process. Thus although Skrypnyk's position on numerous controversial issues is presented clearly and comprehensively, there is little discussion of how and under what circumstances his ideas were formulated. The author's characterizations of Skrypnyk as a "fanatical revolutionary" and a "national utopian" are, needless to say, insufficient.

Nonetheless, the publication of this work represents an important contribution to the study of Ukrainian communism. The author deals extensively with various aspects of the national question and Skrypnyk's approach to this problem. Thus far only one book-length title devoted to Skrypnyk, a slender volume published in 1967, has appeared in the Soviet Union. Although posthumously rehabilitated (Skrypnyk committed suicide in 1933), he continues to be treated for the most part as an "unperson" by Soviet historians. Koshelivets's book is therefore the first serious attempt to evaluate Skrypnyk's political life, and it should provide a welcome addition to the growing literature on the Old Bolshevik elite.

The author has included Skrypnyk's autobiography, written in 1921, as an appendix, as well as an exhaustive bibliography.

ROMAN SOLCHANYK
Rutgers University

SOVETSKOE KREST'IANSTVO V GODY VELIKOI OTECHESTVENNOI VOINY. By *Iu. V. Arutiunian*. 2nd edition. Moscow: "Nauka," 1970. 466 pp. 2.21 rubles.

It is a pleasure to welcome an important contribution to the economic history of the war and to our knowledge of the achievements and sufferings of the Soviet peasantry. This is an irreplaceable book, full of hitherto unpublished statistics and many quotations from inaccessible archives. Nothing so full or so comprehensive has been published before, except perhaps in the first edition of the same author's work, which appeared in 1963 and which is not available to the reviewer. It is greatly to the author's credit that he has made many independent calculations based on archival materials, and also that he is openly critical when the evidence shows that mistakes were made or injustices committed.

Soviet peasants had to bear extremely severe burdens in 1941–45. Most men were mobilized for army service. So were many horses. Tractors lacked drivers,