

THE FOUNDING OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE IN ASIA AND AMERICA.

By *John A. Harrison*. Coral Gables: University of Miami Press, 1971. 156 pp. \$7.95.

Professor Harrison, who won his laurels as a serious scholar with his study of *Japan's Northern Frontier* and his research on the Ainu, has of late been writing less original but equally useful books, in which he has tried to pull together the detailed, specialized research of fellow scholars and present it as lucidly and concisely as possible for the consumption of college students. In *The Founding of the Russian Empire in Asia and America* Harrison summarizes the history of the Russian drive across northern Asia and the northern Pacific from the ninth to the nineteenth century. He does so in three logical parts: (1) "The Land and the People," in which he describes the great importance of nature in the creation and expansion of the Russian Empire; (2) "The Gathering of Russia," in which he traces the history of Russia from the heterogeneity of Slavic duchies to the creation of a single Russian state powerful enough to expand eastward; and (3) the "Moving Frontier," in which he describes the eastward drive, step by step, from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century, when the Russian Empire reached its maximum size. The result is an informative, easy-to-follow account of Russia's drive across northern Asia and the northern Pacific, which should lend itself well as collateral reading in courses on Western civilization, world history, East Asian international relations, and the United States in the Pacific.

A book of this sort can be no more accurate than its sources, and since the sources, however famous, fail to make the necessary distinction between Mongols and Tatars, Harrison, in following them, slips into using the two appellations interchangeably, even though he realizes (p. 126) that Russian and Chinese authors were mistaken in calling many non-Tatar steppe peoples—including the Mongols—Tatar. This common confusion and some minor errors ("Polovtsoi" instead of Polovtsy, for example) are marginal to the theme of the book, however, and do not seriously detract from Harrison's success in reducing a highly complex subject to a coherent narrative that can be understood and followed with interest by college students.

At a time when budget cuts and soaring expenditures force publishers to bring out ever more drab-looking books, the University of Miami Press deserves praise for the fine physical appearance of the book, designed by Bernard Lipsky and printed by the Rose Printing Company of Tallahassee.

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CHINA AND RUSSIA: THE "GREAT GAME." By *O. Edmund Clubb*. Studies of the East Asian Institute, Columbia University. New York and London: Columbia University Press, 1971. xiii, 578 pp. \$12.95.

The "Great Game" is, it would seem, the "long struggle for dominance" between Russia and China, which Professor Clubb identifies as the basic theme of this big book. The struggle began early, he seems to say, and continued "even after they discarded their 'imperial' aspects." Hence a knowledge of the imperial past of the two empires is necessary for a full understanding of current relations. The author does not entirely prove his generalizations. Indeed over the long haul it is doubtful that intercourse between the two may persistently be called a struggle; there have been