

SOVIET GOVERNMENT: A SELECTION OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS ON INTERNAL POLICIES. Edited by *Mervyn Matthews*. New York: Taplinger Publishing Company, 1974. 472 pp. \$30.00.

The editor of this volume of translations has sought to include in one compilation the documents (there are ninety-two of them) which are most helpful in understanding the Soviet system—those embodying “permanent elements of the Soviet system or which characterized government policy over long periods of time.” The documents themselves are preceded by explanatory notes which seek to place each one in historical perspective. In an ambitious attempt to cover the period from 1917 to 1972, Matthews classifies the documents by broad subject: government and administration (organization, policies, electoral laws); party (organization, tasks, problems); law and the courts; peasants and the land (administration, agricultural policies); and workers (workers’ control, unions, working conditions).

Many of the documents are either translations from the *Current Digest of the Soviet Press* or are from sources such as the *Slavonic and East European Review*, *Nation*, Michigan Legal Publications, and the Foreign Languages Publishing House, Moscow. A few of the documents can be found in Bunyan and Fisher’s *The Bolshevik Revolution, 1917–1918*, and some twenty others were included earlier in Meisel’s *Materials for the Study of the Soviet System*. Some of the translations are less smooth than those found in the Bunyan and Fisher volume, but this is a minor point, since the translations in the Matthew’s book do appear to be complete. Matthews has selected the documents included in this book with care, given the fifty-six year period of Soviet history that he tried to represent.

RICHARD C. GRIPP
San Diego State University

SOVIET ECONOMIC STRUCTURE AND PERFORMANCE. By *Paul R. Gregory* and *Robert C. Stuart*. New York: Harper & Row, 1974. xiii, 478 pp. \$7.95, paper.

This is a textbook built out of the best Western scholarship on the Soviet economy. It combines economic history with economic analysis, and description with evaluation, all logically and cautiously set forth. Noneconomists will find it a reliable guide to the major views in current technical literature and a rich source of bibliographic leads. Teachers of economic development and comparative systems courses will find that it meets their needs more fully than any previous text. In short, it is a major achievement.

Part 1 of the study (4 chapters) reviews the prerevolutionary background and early history of the Soviet economy to 1940. Part 2 (chapters 5–8) describes how the Soviet economy operates. Two long chapters in part 3 discuss the economic theory of socialism and examine Soviet economic reform efforts. Part 4 contains a long chapter evaluating Soviet economic growth performance, a careful analysis of Soviet economic development experience as a possible model for other countries, and a brief concluding chapter reflecting on future prospects. Each chapter ends with well-selected references and the book has a twenty-two page index.

Gregory and Stuart are well-trained young scholars in the Soviet field who have contributed specialized studies on economic development theory and the Soviet collective farm. For this text they draw widely on postwar United States, United

Kingdom, and a few continental sources for statistical evidence and evaluative analysis. Their judgments are untendentiously—even diffidently—conveyed. Technical discussions applying economic theory to particular issues are placed in separate appendixes. The book is thus useful for all who have had an introductory economics course.

The book brings its analysis up to the early 1970s, with some 1972 figures included, but a second edition incorporating recent developments will soon be necessary. Despite its virtues, this present edition lacks the lucidity of a real classic and a second edition could add polish. Meanwhile the present volume should be a very serviceable centerpiece in many courses and an enlightening reference on a great many scholarly bookshelves.

HOLLAND HUNTER
Haverford College

DAS SOWJETISCHE FINANZSYSTEM. By *Günter Hedtkamp*. Osteuropastudien der Hochschulen des Landes Hessen, series 1. Giessener Abhandlungen zur Agrar- und Wirtschaftsforschung des europaischen Ostens, vol. 61. Berlin: Duncker & Humblot, 1974. 218 pp. DM 46, paper.

This book is a survey of the development of the state budget, banking system, and insurance system of the Soviet Union from the prerevolutionary period to the present. Most of the book is historical, and only about 20 percent deals with the period after 1965. The volume is an outgrowth of a previously published long survey article in the *Osteuropa-Handbuch, Sowjetunion*, and the author generously admits that a great part of the work of updating and expanding this survey fell on his assistant, Norbert Penkaitis.

For the most part the book is arranged chronologically and moves step by step through the major legal changes of the Soviet financial system and the various major institutional changes. A number of tables present some of the most important data, but these are drawn from quite well known sources and the data are not in any manner reworked. There is very little economic analysis at either a macro- or micro-economic level; the author is content merely to describe the major changes of the system in a brief manner and to outline several of the most important problems the system has faced. The style is extremely dry and factual.

For whom is this book intended? The historical development and the current status of the Soviet financial system are well-plowed scholarly fields. Among the historical studies in the English language, the works of Franklyn Holzman on Soviet taxation, Raymond Powell on Soviet monetary policy, and R. W. Davies on the Soviet budgetary system come readily to mind. The book by Daniel Gallik and his collaborators at the U.S. Bureau of the Census on the Soviet financial system (which, incredibly, is not mentioned in Hedtkamp's bibliography) is a well-known study of the current situation. In the German language there are several monographs by Gertraud Menz on Soviet banking and taxation, a number of Russian monographs on the financial system which have been translated into German, and a number of monographs written in the interwar period. Hedtkamp draws on many of these (especially Davies' book) and adds little except minor details. Specialists, therefore, will find the book of little use and will probably be annoyed at the author's lack of acquaintance with a considerable body of English-language literature on the subjects with which he deals. The general reader will find the