

chak (Kolchak) (p. 295). Most disturbing is that so much interesting material and hard digging into questions of genuine historical import achieved such ungainly results. Despite its shortcomings, the volume could be very useful to the researcher and student interested in the byways of American Jewish life, the history of anti-Semitism, and certain fragments of the history of the revolutionary movement.

Professor Zvi Gitelman, in a heavily researched and lengthy work, seeks to examine Jewish national existence in the first generation of Soviet power. He concerns himself particularly with the Jewish experience "as a history of the modernization and secularization of an ethnic and religious minority resulting from attempts to integrate this minority into a modernizing state." Within this major dimension, Gitelman concentrates on the issue of Jewish identity as it developed for the Jews of socialist persuasion in programmatic and organizational terms. The instrument Gitelman examines most specifically is the development and behavior of the Jewish Section of the Communist Party, the *Evseksiia*, and how it undertook to perform the task of integrating and Bolshevizing the Jews of Russia into the new order emerging out of the November Revolution.

Gitelman demonstrates well the wide range of responses among the Jewish population to the rapidly expanding political and cultural vistas of last-generation imperial Russia. Sketching the Jewish Bund as an instrument for defining and organizing the modernist thrust within Jewish life, he seems to prepare the reader for the post-November revolutionary era in terms of its own disintegrating organization and transformation into the new *Evseksiia* out of the chaotic Russia that followed November. Yet the most difficult part of the volume is Gitelman's reconstruction of the formation of Jewish Bolshevik groups, their make-up, and how they emerged from a variety of sources to become that *Evseksiia*. Here the relation between the earlier Bund and the new Bolshevik organizations may be too narrow a basis to warrant the attention offered by the author.

The bulk of the volume deals with the *Evseksiia*'s major tasks, which Gitelman defines as the attempt to destroy the old order, the Bolshevization of the Jews, and the reconstruction of Jewish national life. He presents well the difficulties of the Jewish Bolsheviks with their dilemmas so familiar to Jewish life in Russia—to assimilate or to help build a pluralistic culture within the Soviet Communist framework, and the narrower but vital problem of the *Evseksiia*'s own relation to the party, the issue of autonomy or highly disciplined unity. The latter element eventually won out as Stalinization absorbed the Soviet world.

The volume is heavy in places, reflecting the difficult task Gitelman undertook in representing many levels of activity and organization, local detail, and high policy. The degree of success he achieved is very considerable under the circumstances, and he deserves the thanks of the scholarly community for his efforts and results.

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WORLD COMMUNISM: A HANDBOOK, 1918–1965. Edited by *Witold S. Sworakowski*. Stanford: Hoover Institution Press, 1973. xv, 576 pp. \$25.00.

Since 1967 the Hoover Institution has issued an annual *Yearbook on International Communist Affairs*, beginning with coverage of the year 1966. The present single volume is intended to fill the gap for the period from just before the founding of

the Comintern through 1965. Curiously, a number of the articles end with a section on "prospects," which the succeeding volumes in this series render unnecessary. When such a great span of time is covered for Communist parties in all corners of the globe, it is inevitable that some articles will be better written and more valuable than others. In all, there are 106 separate pieces by 53 different authors. Not only do they trace the foundation and development of the various national Communist parties, but they also deal briefly with international Communist organizations such as the Comintern, Cominform, and their various front organizations, the Balkan Communist Federation, the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, and the Warsaw Pact. Among other miscellaneous subjects discussed, there is a very useful article on the Fourth International. Although no one may be entirely satisfied with the attempt to compress such a huge amount of material into one volume, it is nevertheless a considerable achievement that will serve as a valuable reference work, along with the other volumes in this series.

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BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF THE COMINTERN. By *Branko Lazitch* in collaboration with *Milorad M. Drachkovitch*. Stanford: Hoover Institution Press, 1973. xxxii, 458 pp. \$15.00.

In his introduction Lazitch describes this dictionary as an "attempt, modest and incomplete, to pierce the double shroud of anonymity and silence" that has long enveloped the members of the Comintern. Surely an invaluable beginning has been made with these biographical sketches of 718 persons. The authors have produced a worthwhile and badly needed reference work that rests heavily upon their extensive investigations and personal contacts. As a bonus they provide identification of no less than 359 pseudonyms used by Communists. Anyone familiar with the obscure and elusive nature of Comintern personnel will be impressed by the authors' intimacy with their subject. Their first intention was to limit the dictionary to the approximately three hundred persons who served on the Comintern's leading bodies (Executive Committee, Presidium, Secretariat, and Control Commission). They later decided to include other important categories: (1) those speakers at Comintern meetings who also played significant roles in their respective Communist parties, (2) members of the Comintern apparatus, (3) leaders of affiliated organizations, such as the Profintern and Communist Youth International, and (4) those graduates of Comintern schools who later had important careers in the Communist movement. Each biographical sketch offers, as far as possible, basic data (on birth, nationality, family background, education, and so forth) and a political biography of the person's career both within his party and in the broader arena of the Comintern.

Forty-seven Communist parties are represented, several by only one or two entries. Those parties with the greatest representation are, according to my count, the CPSU (103 persons), the German (70), French (67), Chinese (43), Czechoslovak (35), Yugoslav (34), Italian (33), Bulgarian (31), Polish (29), American (28), British and Hungarian (21 each). Many persons served in more than one party, and several others worked chiefly in the Comintern apparatus.

What happened to these 718 Communists after they entered Comintern ranks?