

THE SOVIET UNION AND THE ARAB EAST UNDER KHRUSHCHEV.

By *Oles M. Smolansky*. The Modern Middle East Series, vol. 6. The Middle East Institute, Columbia University. Lewisburg, Pa.: Bucknell University Press, 1974. 326 pp. \$15.00.

In this book the intricacies of Soviet-Arab relations during the Khrushchev era are displayed and explained through a series of narratives dealing with periods of crises in these relations. Accounts of the origins (1954–55) and of subsequent critical moments (1956–58) in Soviet-Arab relations are followed by narrations, with running commentary, of Arab (Egyptian, Syrian, and Iraqi) actions and Soviet reactions in 1959–63, and of Khrushchev's visit to Egypt in May 1964. The concluding chapter, "The Ultimate Failure of Khrushchev's Policies," resumes and reconsiders the successive stages—initiation, evolution, and complication—in Khrushchev's general enterprise of establishing patron-and-client relationships with three of the most important Arab states.

For the Soviet side of the picture, the author's coverage of Soviet and other published sources is extensive, and his selection of them is judicious and well organized in relation to the story he tells. The Cairo, Baghdad, and Damascus press has not been neglected, but is necessarily more selectively and summarily used. While Soviet-Arab relations are the essential foreground of the study, the logically inseparable theme of Arab-Western relations is not relegated into a mere background position; the model (p. 297) of "a trio of partially intersecting circles each representing the interests of one of the parties concerned"—the Arabs, the USSR, and the West—is a simple but fine aid to clarity about a subject which has too often been obscured by the turbid waters of rhetoric.

But the greatest value of this exemplary investigation of Soviet foreign policy conduct—in a particular part of the world during a particular period—is the thoroughness and consistency with which it has been carried out. It is an object lesson in how much illumination about the USSR's perception of its foreign policy interests can be derived from Soviet published sources. The book is an impressive and at the same time a modest exercise. It is impressive in its methodical marshalling of the evidence. It is modest in keeping, in self-denying fashion, within the limits of its brief. Dr. Smolansky deserves the gratitude of all those concerned for the enlargement of public understanding on this important subject.

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THE END OF THE POSTWAR ERA: A NEW BALANCE OF WORLD

POWER. By *Alastair Buchan*. New York: Saturday Review Press/E. P. Dutton & Company, 1974. x, 347 pp. \$8.95.

This is an essay in global history, analysis, and prescription—military, political, and economic. Alastair Buchan, for twelve years director of the Institute for Strategic Studies, since 1970 professor of international relations at Oxford, is one of the few qualified to try his hand at so large a canvas.

The book was formally completed in September 1973. A footnote catches up with the fourth Arab-Israeli war, and passages are added on various implications of OPEC's quadrupling of the oil price; but President Nixon's resignation, the