

structural linguistics (William R. Schmalstieg), ethnography (Stephen P. Dunn), and sociology (Alex Simirenko). The essays differ in emphasis, one stressing institutional developments (Barry); another, applications (Sherman); a third, specific investigations (Simirenko).

I could cavil about particulars: for example, Kamenka's definition of statistics as an expression of "the mathematical relationships of large numbers" (p. 101) has long been superseded (via Gödel, Bayes, and others) by understanding of the formalistic nature of mathematical rules and models, and, hence, the primacy of nontestable assumptions in the consideration of any system. Barry seems to me to have overlooked important, albeit aborted, experiments in social control via "comrades' courts"; such experiments may have great relevance in other unstable urban societies. Simirenko does not, I believe, handle with critical care the reliability and validity of the statistics he cites.

I must also make two general criticisms. First, the book really deals far more with the sociology and content of particular professions in the Soviet Union than it does with "social thought." A book on that subject is still needed, but it might well have less representation from the technicians of social science and more from writers, politicians, natural scientists, and others. Second, the various references to the past reveal a very weak control by the authors of work of prerevolutionary social scientists, whose work was often of outstanding quality. An understanding of the contributions of, say, Krasheninnikov, Maack, and Sergeevich, would have brought better balance to the volume.

These criticisms aside, I can recommend *Social Thought in the Soviet Union* most highly. It is a valuable reference work, and should be made available, in a cheaper paperback edition, to every class in either comparative social science or in Soviet area studies. Finally, the comparison of this investigation with the survey of the behavioral sciences in the United States recently completed by the National Academy of Sciences should add to the value of both.

DEMITRI B. SHIMKIN  
*University of Illinois, Urbana*

SOVIET SOCIOLOGY: HISTORICAL ANTECEDENTS AND CURRENT APPRAISALS. Edited, with an Introduction, by *Alex Simirenko*. Chicago: Quadrangle Books, 1966. 384 pp. \$7.95.

The aim of sociology is to produce accurate, relevant information about society's social patterns and problems. Modern societies stand to profit in the long run from a continuing supply of such information, but it is usually viewed and interpreted by political leaders and interest groups in terms of their own cherished interests, values, and ideologies. Thus sociology is inherently threatening to conservative forces in the established order, and the emergence of sociology to a position of precarious acceptance and perhaps even some prestige is of considerable interest wherever it takes place. Such is one consideration the reader of *Soviet Sociology* may have in mind as he approaches this book. Another's concern might be more circumscribed and technical in nature. The Western sociologist might be interested in becoming acquainted with the specific problems, theories, research methods, and findings that the work of his Soviet colleagues would reveal. Or he might want to see whether the image of Soviet society given by sociologists corresponds with other versions of it, say those found in party handbooks, in the novels and short

stories written by Soviet authors, or in the reports of current political defectors.

None of these major problems are dealt with adequately, and the main point that seems to emerge from the anthology is that Soviet sociology is undergoing a rebirth. While this is by no means an unimportant fact, it has already become well known and hardly needs further documentation or argument. The book contains twenty-one items, nine by United States sociologists, three by Soviet sociologists, and the rest by persons of other nationalities and backgrounds. All have been published previously in reasonably accessible form, except the two contributions by Professor Simirenko, which unfortunately are not up to the standard of quality or interest set by most of the other materials.

For the benefit of readers who are not trained in sociology, the following caveats are essential: (1) The editor apparently lacks a firm grasp of the nature of sociology, confusing it with both speculative thought and political polemics. Included in the roster of persons whose ideas we are invited to consider are Lenin, Trotsky, Bukharin, and Stalin. If it were deemed desirable to cull and republish materials about the Soviet scene of sociological interest written by nonsociologists (which in itself is debatable), the work of Soviet journalists, legal scholars, and ethnographers rather than that of politicians would have been more helpful. (2) In a number of places in the two essays by Simirenko he seems out of touch with Soviet political reality. For example, he refers to the ruling strata of Soviet party officials as "a body of technicians" (p. 22), and he argues that "the passing of the older generation" and "relative international peace" (pp. 34–35) are the essential conditions required for Soviet sociologists to acquire the right to freedom of research. Simirenko's general tone is immoderately laudatory and optimistic. It is premature and naïve to write of a "new era" in the development of Soviet sociology starting in October 1963—largely, it would seem, on the basis of decisions and directives taken at that time by party authorities and a new "definition of sociology" (pp. 25–30). Similarly, the claim of an "enormously rapid advancement and change of Soviet sociology since 1963" (p. 329) is overstated. Such extreme positive reactions do no service to anyone, least of all to the struggling sociologists and their sympathizers in the USSR who are all too conscious of the continuing limitations placed on their freedom of inquiry.

Regrettably, this reviewer is forced to conclude that Simirenko's publication is a book of small worth, offering the reader little except the convenience of some interesting articles and book excerpts—some of which concern Soviet sociology—gathered under a single cover.

H. KENT GEIGER  
*University of Wisconsin*

SCIENCE POLICY IN THE USSR. By *E. Zaleski, J. P. Kozłowski, H. Wienert, R. W. Davies, M. J. Berry, and R. Amann*. Paris: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, 1969. 615 pp. \$15.00, paper.

Except in high-priority areas such as armaments and aerospace industries the Soviet Union lags far behind the United States and industrial countries of Western Europe in its level of technology and rate of technological change. This "technological gap" persists despite an enormous effort to catch up and despite the many achievements that the USSR has made in scientific research over the last few decades. This seems to be the main conclusion of the new study prepared for OECD by a group of European and American researchers.