

been a veritable flood of published war memoirs and histories by Soviet military leaders, including Zhukov's own recollections.

This trend has resulted in the rehabilitation of Zhukov, and indeed also of Stalin, as a wartime leader. But the party's dispensation in the matter of the wartime role of the military does not include Zhukov's postwar political role, discussion of which is carefully avoided. Chaney's exhaustive research on Zhukov reflects these trends in Soviet historiography, although he has tried to fill in the gaps from Western sources. His material leads him to provide a detailed and thorough treatment of Zhukov's wartime role as a planner and commander of most of the key battles on the Eastern Front. It is to this subject that the major part of the book is devoted, the accounts being amplified by photographs and maps. But the portrait of Zhukov as a person and the description of his political role, especially in the hectic days of Khrushchev's climb to the pinnacle of power, unavoidably remain sketchy and uncertain.

Although the book falls short of a comprehensive case history of the making of a Soviet marshal and minister of defense in the Stalin-Khrushchev era, it provides important details on how the Soviet leadership waged war and interesting glimpses of the competition and jealousies among Soviet commanders. It also provides insights into the attitudes of the present Soviet military leaders who are essentially products of the same experience and system as Zhukov.

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RUSSIAN TANKS, 1900-1970: THE COMPLETE ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF SOVIET ARMoured THEORY AND DESIGN. By *John Milsom*. Harrisburg: Stackpole Books, 1971. 192 pp. \$11.95.

T-34 RUSSIAN ARMOR. By *Douglas Orgill*. Ballantine's Illustrated History of World War II, Weapons Book, no. 21. New York: Ballantine Books, 1971. 160 pp. \$1.00, paper.

It may not surprise us to learn that today the Soviet Armored Forces are the most powerful in the world, since the Soviet Union, a great but solitary land power located in the huge European and Asian land mass, has already faced the German threat in World War II and growled at NATO ever since, and now is showing active hostility toward China, the most populous country on earth. Though accepting the fact, we have been waiting for a comprehensive historical explanation of how this came about. We are at last rewarded by the appearance of *Russian Tanks, 1900-1970* by John Milsom, who has compiled a complete and concise illustrated history of Soviet armored theory and design. The author traces the evolution and development of Soviet armor from its early confused and amateurish fumbings to present-day practical and professional efficiency. The fascinating background and story is unfolded in chronological order in part 1, where after describing Russian pre-revolutionary concepts the author goes on to outline the foundations of the Soviet tank industry, the effects of the First and Second Five-Year Plans, the dark Stalin purges which crippled the Red Army for so long, and practical experience in Spain, Manchuria, and Finland. Simple maps, and lucid but staccato prose, silhouette the armored contribution to the Great Patriotic War clearly, and in the final chapter Milsom discusses the role of "Armour in the Nuclear Age." In the seventies the

Soviet aim is for its armored thrust to be able to advance on an average of sixty miles a day, but the tendency to overestimate its amphibious and river-crossing capabilities is emphasized. Milsom sums up the balance sheet of armored power by commenting that the present Soviet vehicles are "technically speaking inferior to European models (tank for tank)," but adds that the Russians believe this to be balanced by their vast superiority in numbers. He has accurately hit upon the key to Soviet military thinking: simplicity and quantity, rather than sophistication and quality.

Part 2 deals with Soviet armored fighting vehicles, including certain weapons such as self-propelled guns, and is a mass of essential technical detail. The whole book is liberally illustrated with photographs—some of which have never been published in the West before—and drawings. There is also a data appendix and a most useful, two-section index, one technical and the other general. This work should be on the reference bookshelves—within easy reach—of all military students, commentators, writers, compilers, and planners. My copy will be especially well thumbed.

Equally interesting, but shorter, is *T-34 Russian Armor* by Douglas Orgill, an account of the conception, birth, development, and wartime role of the tank. Although crude by Western standards, the Russian tank tended to symbolize the spirit of the Russian struggle against Germany in World War II. What the Model T Ford was to the automobile age, so was the Soviet T-34 to the tank world, and a book entirely devoted to it should be welcomed. The T-34 was a fast, medium tank, with sloped and angled armor, an aspect to which the British and Germans had not then paid much attention (the design allowed for increased protection against antitank projectiles), and almost forty thousand were produced, survivors being in action as late as 1967 in the Middle East. On the German side, General Guderian admitted that it broke German tank superiority and that it was "very worrying," while General Mellenthin said "We had nothing comparable," and Field Marshal von Kleist reckoned it to be the "finest tank in the world." Unfortunately, though it is readable, interesting, and adequately illustrated, the book has no index. Thus, although packed with historical and technical data, it is of little use as a work of reference. Once read it will remain on a bookshelf to collect dust, though it deserves to be consulted frequently.

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DIE SOWJETUNION UND DAS DRITTE REICH: EINE DOKUMENTIERTE GESCHICHTE DER DEUTSCH-SOWJETISCHEN BEZIEHUNGEN VON 1933 BIS 1941. By *Philipp W. Fabry*. Preface by *Ernst Deuerlein*. Stuttgart: Seewald Verlag, 1971. 485 pp. DM 45.

In 1962 Philipp W. Fabry published a book on German-Soviet relations (*Der Hitler-Stalin-Pakt, 1939-1941*) that, contrary to the assertion of the late Ernst Deuerlein's preface to this book, was received very critically. Although by title the new book covers the years 1933-39, it is in fact a revised and expanded version of the 1962 volume with a brief chapter on the 1933-39 period. Fabry has added many additional quotations from the sources, both published and unpublished. He has made considerable use of the Soviet memoir literature of the last decade, and he has added detailed discussion of Comintern activity. The author has also corrected some of the errors noted by reviewers of the earlier book.