

an important point. As noted by John C. Campbell, a general détente in the Middle East might be brought into the realm of the possible if the Soviet leaders (and their U.S. counterparts) came to the conclusion that the region was not crucial to their vital national interests (p. 215).

In any event, most contributors take a pessimistic view of the possibility of a superpower détente in the Middle East and, by implication, in the rest of the world as well. This is the more distressing in that recent revolutionary developments in arms technology, coupled with the rapidly growing problems of population, food scarcity, and the preservation of the environment (to name but a few), make Soviet-American cooperation desirable, if not absolutely vital. All in all, the volume is an important and valuable contribution to a better understanding of the Middle East in the coming decade.

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CASTRO, THE KREMLIN, AND COMMUNISM IN LATIN AMERICA. By
D. Bruce Jackson. Studies in International Affairs, no. 9. Baltimore: Johns
Hopkins Press, 1969. viii, 163 pp. \$6.50, cloth. \$2.45, paper.

This book is a useful study of what the author, a United States Foreign Service officer, calls the "coming of age of 'Fidelismo' in the world communist movement" (p. 1) between 1964 and early 1967. It deals primarily with the November 1964 Conference of Latin American Communist Parties held in Havana, at which Fidel Castro committed himself to working with the pro-Soviet parties in Latin America; the January 1966 Tricontinental Conference in Havana, which the author feels marked the emergence of an independent Cuban policy toward Latin American revolutionaries; and the scathing denunciations of many pro-Soviet parties in late 1966 and early 1967 by Castro and his semiofficial spokesman of that period, Régis Debray. Two chapters are devoted to the Communist Party of Venezuela and its turn during these years from armed to peaceful struggle, the dissension this shift caused among Venezuelan Communists and leftists generally, and the important role this "tactical retreat" played in the development of Soviet-Cuban-Latin American Communist relations.

Yet this book is not all that its title and some portions of the text claim, namely, a general study of Castro, the Soviet Union, and communism in Latin America. It falls short of being an adequate general study on several counts. It fails to give an accurate picture of Soviet-Cuban relations during most of the decade because of its concentration on precisely that period when tensions were unusually great. Furthermore, it does not give a clear overview of Soviet and Cuban relations with Latin American Communists even during the 1964-67 period, since it zeroes in too much on the Venezuelan experience. Equally serious, if not lengthy, consideration of Soviet and Cuban policies toward Communists and guerrilla groups in such countries as Chile, Guatemala, Paraguay, and Uruguay would have strengthened many of the generalizations drawn from the Venezuelan dispute, and it would also have demonstrated a complexity and flexibility, especially in the policies of the Soviet Union, that is lost in the present work. Finally, a general study would have required a more careful evaluation of the influence of Communist China, as well as of pro-Chinese and even Trotskyist groups in Latin America, on Soviet and Cuban policies.

This book has no index and a bibliography that is too short to be of much use. Although some good references are found in the footnotes at the end of the book,

too many of the speeches and articles cited are from Radio Havana broadcasts rather than readily available published texts.

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THE VOICES. By *Joseph Wechsberg*. Garden City: Doubleday & Co., 1969. 113 pp. \$3.95.

THE SEVENTH NIGHT. By *Ladislav Mňačko*. Foreword by *Harry Schwartz*. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., Inc., 1969. 220 pp. \$5.95.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA'S BLUEPRINT FOR "FREEDOM": "UNITY, SOCIALISM & HUMANITY," DUBČEK'S STATEMENTS—THE ORIGINAL AND OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS LEADING TO THE CONFLICT OF AUGUST, 1968. Compiled by *Paul Ello*. Washington, D.C.: Acropolis Books, 1969. x, 304 pp. \$4.95, cloth. \$2.95, paper.

These three books have as their central theme "The Year 1968 in Czechoslovakia," but they vary greatly in their approach, and each appeals to a different group of readers. Joseph Wechsberg's little book, *The Voices*, is essentially an account of what the distinguished journalist heard over the Czechoslovak underground radio after the invasion by Warsaw Pact forces. Wechsberg, himself born and raised in Czechoslovakia, treats his subject with deep feeling and emotion. The book is in no sense a scholarly work, nor was it intended to be. Wechsberg does not hesitate to offer his own interpretation of events as he relates them. Sometimes his explanations are plausible, but others have turned out to be unfounded conjectures and rumors, and one wonders how much Wechsberg's friend "J." (whom he terms an amateur historian) and Wechsberg himself have fallen into the trap of believing what they want to believe. The book is still of interest as a personal account of the dramatic days of August. It suffers from some unfortunate editing, particularly the apparent lacuna at the bottom of page 47.

The Seventh Night by Slovak journalist Ladislav Mňačko is an attempt to place the August invasion in the context of Czechoslovak history since the war. Mňačko was one of the country's leading political columnists. A Communist since youth, he had a great number of friends and acquaintances within the ruling circles of the Czechoslovak Communist Party, and his frequent excursions into past history, which the invasion prompted, have resulted in his providing some vivid portraits of the party functionaries at work. Mňačko's own role in the periods of the repressive regimes of Gottwald and Novotný is not above reproach. The author points to frequent errors in judgment on his part and offers a candid, if perhaps exaggerated, picture of his role in the implementation of Stalinist tyranny in his country.

Like many other Central Europeans, Mňačko views the Soviet Union and the United States as a dual threat to national sovereignty and suggests that such recent developments as the signing of the agreement limiting the proliferation of atomic weapons was part of a much larger understanding between the two states. He hints darkly at a "new Yalta, a new division of spheres of interest by the two greatest powers" (p. 213). Mňačko is convinced that the Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia can only be explained by a new policy of expansion into Europe. His is a voice of despair, despair that the socialist internationalism in which he and countless other Communists believed has become socialist imperialism.