

SCARCITY AND CONTROL IN SOCIALISM: ESSAYS ON EAST EUROPEAN PLANNING. By *Phillip J. Bryson*. Lexington, Mass.: Lexington Books, D. C. Heath, 1976. xiv, 202 pp. Figures. Tables. \$16.50.

Phillip Bryson's *Scarcity and Control in Socialism* is a slender volume best described as a cross between a textbook and a scholarly monograph. Like a text, it is organized topically, each section dealing with a different aspect of planning and control. Themes such as the nature of centralist administration under socialism, decentralization, information theory, pricing, investment criteria, and CMEA integration are discussed separately in individual chapters which set forth the issues, survey the literature, embellish key arguments, and culminate with a few broad, but carefully hedged, conclusions.

Like a monograph, the embellishments introduced in each chapter are intended as serious contributions to the pertinent literature. An input-output approach to information theory is advanced, the typical method is contrasted with Fisher's concept of rate of return over cost (after the manner of Alchian), an optimum foreign trade decentralization scheme is suggested which invokes Kuhn-Tucker, and the CMEA independent price basis problem is given a tentative solution through the application of the Baumol-Bradford theorem. In and of themselves, many of the ideas put forward by Bryson are potentially meritorious. Unfortunately, having chosen the hybrid textbook-monograph format, he is unable to develop his ideas with sufficient detail and rigor to ever be really persuasive. For example, while a "quasi-optimal" independent pricing scheme is recommended, no thought is given to the pure theoretical problem of whether an independent price basis is preferable to employing world prices. Equally telling is the fact that nowhere in the book is any empirical attempt made to validate the relevance of various hypotheses.

In summary then, *Scarcity and Control in Socialism* is neither a textbook nor a scholarly monograph. It fills a useful niche between the two for those desiring to explore certain fundamental problems of socialist economics without committing themselves to a thorough and comprehensive exploration of particular scientific problems. This surely is a valid function, but it is still disappointing that none of the scholarly problems raised by Bryson receive the comprehensive analysis they warrant.

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FIGHTING AUSCHWITZ: THE RESISTANCE MOVEMENT IN THE CONCENTRATION CAMP. By *Józef Garliński*. London: Julian Friedmann Publishers, 1975. xii, 327 pp. Photographs. \$12.50. Distributed by Holmes & Meier Publishers, New York.

The concentration camp in Auschwitz was not only a place of inhuman crimes. Struggle and charity became the fulfillment of life for many of the camp's inmates, those who conquered fear and then offered resistance. There are various publications (for example, B. Baum's *Widerstand in Auschwitz*) which describe resistance in the camp, but Garliński's book is unsurpassed in its presentation of one resistance organization, founded by a man who purposely accepted arrest and deportation to Auschwitz. This man was Witold Pilecki. Acting in conjunction with the Polish underground Home Army, he established a secret organization in the camp, which assisted the inmates and directed the fight against the Nazis.