

Although his accounts of tsarist contacts with Ethiopia are fascinating, the most important part of Wilson's book deals with Comintern activities. He describes in great detail the "broad spectrum of covert and indirect instrumentalities to conduct activities in Africa" (p. 277) and, as one example, cites the promotion of numerous front organizations to mobilize African nationalist discontent, which was dependent on various changes in the Comintern's political line. Despite the Comintern's failure to harness nascent Pan-Africanism to the black emancipation movement in the United States, Wilson argues that the Comintern had a profound effect as a modernizing agent in influencing the development of the African nationalist movement—"through the activities of the Comintern and its representatives, Moscow helped to transmit to Negro Africans radical political attitudes, a supporting ideology and a knowledge of specific techniques and strategies which were useful in the structural organization and practical conduct of the independence movement" (p. 295).

One can argue, however, that Wilson's analysis of Comintern activities lacks broad perspective. He does not discuss the relative importance of the Comintern, or, indeed, of Africa, in general Soviet foreign policy. By providing a wealth of detail which focuses on a relatively peripheral area of Russian foreign policy, Wilson exaggerates the intrinsic importance of Russo-African contacts under the tsars and in the interwar period. Despite these problems, the book is an important corrective to earlier dismissals of prewar Russo-African relations. With its wealth of hitherto unused Russian, British, French, and African sources, the volume provides valuable insights into understanding the genesis of current Soviet involvement in Africa.

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THE FORGOTTEN FRIENDSHIP: ISRAEL AND THE SOVIET BLOC, 1947-1953. By *Arnold Krammer*. Urbana, Chicago, London: University of Illinois Press, 1974. x, 224 pp. \$10.00.

In this thoroughly researched and lucid history of Zionist and Israeli relations with the USSR and its East European satellites, the author offers no new or startling conclusions. He states, correctly, that Stalin's policy in the Palestine question was based on power-political rather than ideological considerations; that the Kremlin "was never deeply or sincerely involved in the conflict between Israel and the Arab world"; and that Moscow's overriding purpose was to terminate British influence in Palestine and, possibly, to help aggravate Anglo-American relations in the Middle East (p. 198). The book's main value and strength lies in the detailed account of the desperate, dramatic, and often heroic efforts of the Jewish community in Palestine both to secure from Czechoslovakia the military equipment necessary to repel Arab attempts to prevent the establishment of Israel and to facilitate the flow of East European immigrants to the National Home. The story of the staggering difficulties and the ingenuity with which they were overcome (many details appear in print for the first time) make this balanced and scholarly study fascinating reading both to the student of international relations and the buff of "grand" international intrigue.

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