

STUDIES IN THE RUSSIAN ECONOMY BEFORE 1914. By *Olga Crisp*. New York: Barnes & Noble, Harper & Row, 1976. xii, 278 pp. \$25.00.

For economic historians who are not Russian specialists, the late imperial period of Russian history is no less interesting than that of the Soviet Union, but the literature is much less voluminous and satisfactory. For that reason alone the publication of Olga Crisp's collected essays is a welcome event. All but one have been previously published (although almost all have been revised for this volume), but not always in publications that are easily accessible.

Crisp first turned her scholarly attention to Russia in connection with her Ph.D. thesis for the University of London, "The Financial Aspect of the Franco-Russian Alliance," which she completed in 1954. Two of the earlier essays in this volume, "French Investment and Influence in Russian Industry, 1894–1914" (1956), and "French Investment in Russian Joint Stock Companies, 1894–1914" (1960), draw heavily on the unpublished thesis, which was based to a large extent on archival sources in Paris as well as on official and unofficial Russian publications. The earliest article in the collection, "Russian Financial Policy and the Gold Standard at the End of the Nineteenth Century" (1953), actually published before the thesis was completed, was also a by-product of the thesis research. At the times of their initial publication all three articles brought hard evidence, much of it quantitative in nature, to bear on topics that previously had been subjects of propaganda and fanciful speculation. That their conclusions have been confirmed and amplified but not superseded by subsequent research testifies to the thoroughness of the research on which they are based.

In subsequent years Crisp consistently broadened her research interests and her areas of expertise. In "The State Peasants Under Nicholas I" (1959) she challenged a widely held view: "Russia was not backward because serf relations dominated her economy; it was her backwardness which made serf relations persist. Serfdom was a symptom not the cause of the slowness of Russia's economic growth until the 1850s. . . . [T]he abolition of serfdom was long overdue. But the commonly accepted view that it was the panacea for the economic ills of the country would appear to need basic revision" (p. 95). In "Banking in the Industrialisation of Tsarist Russia, 1860–1914" (1967), a mini-monograph prepared for a symposium on "banking in the early stages of industrialization," she compiled for the first time in any language a systematic quantitative account of the growth of the Russian banking system and presented a coherent interpretation of its role in the industrialization of Russia between the Emancipation Act and the outbreak of World War I.

Crisp's recent publications reflect both a scholarly demand for her views on subjects in which she is an acknowledged expert, and her own continually broadening interests. "The Russian Economy Under Serfdom" (1973) is a review article, considerably expanded in the present version, of a number of recent works in which she gently but firmly probes both accepted generalizations and new "findings." (A related item is an "addendum" to the chapters on French entrepreneurship and Russian industry, a long review of John P. McKay's *Pioneers for Profit: Foreign Entrepreneurship and Russian Industrialization, 1885–1913* [Chicago and London, 1970].) "Russia's Public Debt and the French Market, 1889–1914: A Statistical Assessment," a paper presented to the meeting of the French Economic History Society in 1973, recapitulates some of the material from her 1954 thesis, but also introduces new material based upon her own and others' more recent research.

By almost any standard the most significant and far-reaching chapter in the volume is the lead essay, "The Pattern of Industrialization in Russia, 1700–1914," which was presented to a conference devoted to "industrialization in Europe in the nineteenth century" in Lyons, France, in 1970, and first published in the proceedings of the conference in 1972. In understated tones it subtly calls into question a number

of widely accepted generalizations about the nature of the process of industrialization in Russia, including the celebrated "Gerschenkron hypothesis" on the economics of backwardness. In effect, Crisp turns the Gerschenkron hypothesis on its head. The weakness of the "autonomous forces" of the Russian economy (that is, the private sector) was not nearly so great as Gerschenkron implies. Insofar as they (it) were (was) weak, such weakness resulted from the continual interference of the state from the time of Peter the Great onward—which Gerschenkron and others have asserted was necessitated by that very "weakness"—at least as much as by other indigenous factors. Crisp's evidence on the important role of the Russian banks, from an earlier essay, and her generally favorable review of McKay's book on foreign entrepreneurs, support her contentions.

All in all, this is a very important book, essential to a correct understanding of the Russian economy in the last century of tsardom.

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THE GREAT REVIVAL: THE RUSSIAN CHURCH UNDER GERMAN OCCUPATION. By *Wassilij Alexeev* and *Theofanis G. Stavrou*. Minneapolis: Burgess Publishing Company, 1976. xvi, 229 pp. Illus. \$21.95.

Alexander Dallin's seminal study of Nazi occupation policies during World War II, *German Rule in Russia, 1941-1945*, identified the crucial role of the churches in providing a means for the subject population to maintain its social and cultural identity. During some three years of mounting hardships—starvation, forced labor, requisitions, and a reign of terror—religious institutions operated with a freedom they had not known since 1917. Despite heavy-handed and contradictory attempts by the German authorities to manipulate ecclesiastical forces, the nascent church groups were generally able to perform their spiritual tasks at the cost of only perfunctory tributes to their "liberators."

Now we have this survey of what the authors term "the second baptism of Russia." The work embodies Professor Alexeev's doctoral dissertation, detailing by geographical region the experiences of Russian Orthodox hierarchs and parishes. An opening chapter and epilogue, evidently by Professor Stavrou, deduce the essential religiosity of Russia from sources as diverse as Kazantzakis and Solzhenitsyn. The connection between the two sections is tenuous, unless one accepts the implicit assumption that national spirituality rather than special wartime circumstances was the major cause of the Russian church revival.

That assumption is questionable, in the light of the historical evidence as well as the findings of Peter Berger, among others, on the correlation of modernization and secularization. It is further undercut in the Russian case by the ease with which Khrushchev erased most of the wartime gains of the churches by the mid-sixties, closing half of them.

Alexeev is at his best in piecing together biographies of the bishops who guided the reconstruction of the church. They emerge, on the whole, as resourceful and dedicated leaders, able to steer a narrow course between the pressures of Nazi overseers and nationalist extremists. Alexeev does not seem to be sufficiently critical, perhaps out of regard for their status in Western emigration, of those who succumbed to such pressures. Neither does he question the dubious methods by which some of the clerics were ordained.

Relying primarily on refugee interviews and German reports, Alexeev presents accounts of church services in a number of localities. By their nature, such data are