

POMESHCHICH'I KREST'IANE V ROSSII: FEODAL'NAIA RENTA V XVII-NACHALE XVIII v. By *Iu. A. Tikhonov*. Moscow: "Nauka," 1974. 335 pp.

Tikhonov's monograph is basically a statistical analysis of peasant labor services (*barshchina*) and dues in kind and cash—all subsumed under the rubric "feudal rents"—on service-tenure estates (*pomest'e*) in the central Russian districts (*Zamoskovnye kraï*) during the seventeenth and first quarter of the eighteenth centuries. Drawing heavily upon archival material from the Service Land Chancellery (*Pomestnyi Prikaz*), the author examines peasant obligations to their lords during three periods—before legal enfranchisement in 1649, from 1649 to the introduction of the household tax in 1679, and from 1680 until the establishment of Peter's "soul tax"—in order to (1) determine the types and prevalence of peasant obligations found on service-tenure estates, and (2) assess the burden of dues upon the peasant population. Tikhonov's analysis indicates that the most widespread and basic form of obligation was labor, which was required on 89 percent of the estates; cash payments were collected on about 20 percent of the estates, and payments in kind constituted a relatively minor form of obligation. He finds no evidence to suggest any pattern in the evolution of obligations over time.

Although the data reveal a wide range of variation among estates, the author concludes that obligations per peasant household in general rose over the hundred and twenty-five years examined. But the extent to which this represented a real increase in peasant burdens is difficult to assess because of Tikhonov's failure to provide sufficient indication of the size, landholdings, and productivity of the typical peasant household. Despite its limitations, a hypothetical "production-consumption" model of the sort developed by R. E. F. Smith (*Peasant Farming in Muscovy*) and by A. L. Shapiro and his associates (*Agrarnaia istoriia severo-zapada Rossii*) would have been illuminating on this question.

Perhaps Tikhonov's most significant contribution is his conclusion that peasant resistance, the rise of state taxes (particularly the sharp increase during the early eighteenth century), and state requisitioning of peasant labor placed, at least temporarily, an upper limit on the demands the *pomeshchiki* could impose upon their peasants. And although Tikhonov himself shies away from this conclusion, it is probably not accidental that large-scale confiscations of service-tenure land from *pomeshchiki* unable to bear the burdens of state demands occurred during these years. Thus, this study documents yet another aspect of the high cost at which the Russian garrison state survived and expanded.

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THE DREAM OF LHASA: THE LIFE OF NIKOLAY PRZHEVALSKY (1839–88), EXPLORER OF CENTRAL ASIA. By *Donald Rayfield*. Athens, Ohio and London: Ohio University Press and Elek Books Ltd., 1976. xii, 221 pp. Plates. Maps. \$13.50.

Ohio University Press is the American distributor of this volume, originally published by Elek Books Limited of London. This detail is mentioned at the outset because a book published by a university press suggests a scholarly orientation. Rayfield, a lecturer in Russian at Queen Mary College, University of London, and author of *Chekhov: The Evolution of his Art*, tends to treat his present subject as if he were writing a traditional literary biography. Overall, this is a competently written narrative based on Przhevsky's writings and a number of Russian biographical accounts. Two volumes of Przhevsky's earlier travels appeared in London in 1876, *Mongolia, the Tangut*