

The book has a very good technical apparatus, including appendixes, which tabulate total Slavic and East European holdings in Canadian libraries and the holdings for individual disciplines by nationalities, a list of contributors, a good bibliography, and an excellent subject index. With this survey, Professor Budurowycz and his associates add a valuable reference guide to Slavic and East European collections in North America.

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DDR HANDBUCH. Edited by *Peter Christian Ludz*, with the cooperation of *Johannes Kuppe*. Published under the auspices of the Bundesministerium für innerdeutsche Beziehungen. Cologne: Verlag Wissenschaft und Politik, 1975. xvi, 992 pp. DM 29.50, paper.

Peter Christian Ludz and his colleagues have done students of the German Democratic Republic (GDR)—and of German politics generally—a great service in compiling the *DDR Handbuch*. Essentially this volume is an updated and expanded version of *A-Z—Ein Taschen- und Nachschlagebuch über den anderen Teil Deutschlands*, published by the Ministry for Intra-German Affairs in 1969. The *DDR Handbuch* is impressive: nearly one thousand pages, more than two thousand entries, eighty subject articles, and many tables and graphs. It is clear that a great deal of work and much care went into this mini-encyclopedia on the GDR.

What does the user benefit from the *DDR Handbuch*? First of all, those not familiar with the GDR—and their numbers are legion among students of both Eastern and Western Europe—will find a splendidly organized introduction to all major aspects of the politics, economy, history, foreign policy, society, and legal system of the GDR. The entries and articles will not make one an instant expert, but do supply much useful information. Second, the *DDR Handbuch* has an excellent system of cross references. Although I am sure many would prefer an index, this internal reference system is very good and helpful—again especially for the newcomer to the GDR. The third benefit to the user is a good bibliography. Major works and reference sources are incorporated in the bibliographical section and, although these materials are not directly referenced to the entries, it is relatively easy to find what one is looking for. Finally, the perspective of *Selbstdarstellung* (self-presentation), adopted by the Ludz team, allows the user to see the GDR in its own terms. This avoids some of the cold war chill felt earlier in government-sponsored West German studies of the GDR.

It is on this point of perspective that I must enter one or two caveats. The view in the *DDR Handbuch* is quite naturally one from the Federal Republic. At the risk of sounding chauvinistic, I suggest that the West German perspective should not be accepted uncritically and that we should develop our own informed “U.S. viewpoints” concerning the GDR.

The volume is also flawed by the omission of biographical data. The recent publication of a major biographical index of the GDR was given as the reason for the missing biographies, but the general user would have been grateful for the inclusion of some of the major GDR personalities.

Any undertaking of the scope and size of the *DDR Handbuch* is a nitpicker's paradise. I shall resist the reviewer's temptation to score “points” at the expense of what is an eminently useful and reliable compendium on a (still) relatively unknown country.

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