

## SYMPOSIUM

RUMANIAN STUDIES: AN INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL OF THE HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES. Edited by *Keith Hitchins*. Leiden: E. J. Brill. Vol. 1: 1970. vii, 225 pp. Vol. 2: 1971–1972. vi, 216 pp.

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## LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR:

Permit me a critical comment on Holger H. Herwig's article, "German Policy in the Eastern Baltic Sea in 1918: Expansion or Anti-Bolshevik Crusade?" (June 1973, pp. 339–57). The formulation itself of the German policy-dilemma—"expansion or anti-Bolshevik crusade"—is inaccurate and misleading. True, Berlin in 1918 contemplated an intervention in Russia, but the documentary evidence shows beyond reasonable doubt that it was to take place only if the collapse of Lenin's government was imminent and the pro-Allied forces were about to regain the upper hand in the country. As has been acknowledged—directly or implicitly—by other scholars (Winfried Baumgart, Konrad H. Jarausch), German policy vis-à-vis the Bolsheviks, the only Russian party unconditionally accepting the Brest-Litovsk peace, was dominated by the principle of containment and coexistence.

Failure to notice this dimension of *Ostpolitik* has serious repercussions on Herwig's analysis. The author argues that operation *Schlufstein*, which he primarily deals with, aimed not only at driving the Allies out of northern Russia but also, if not above all, at toppling Lenin's government. Herwig builds on the