

VNESHNIAIA POLITIKA SOVETSKOGO SOIUZA: AKTUAL'NYE PROBLEMY. Edited by *Sh. P. Sanakoev*. Moscow: "Mezhdunarodnye otnosheniia," 1973. 199 pp. 90 kopeks.

Soviet authors occasionally wonder why relatively few books published in the USSR and devoted to its foreign policy are reviewed in Western professional journals. This monograph, an analysis of Soviet policy in the early 1970s, provides a good answer to this query. Like so many other similar "works" constantly rolling off the presses, it is based on the "line" of the day, stressing the "wisdom" of the current leader (in this case, Brezhnev), extolling the "enormous contribution to the theoretical *razrabotka* of foreign policy problems" made by the latest party congress (in this instance, the Twenty-Fourth, p. 4), containing innumerable quotations from Lenin's *Collected Works* and speeches by Brezhnev, and attempting to demonstrate how the "principled" and "scientific" Soviet policy is constantly at work to foil the "hypocritical," "aggressive," and "reactionary" tendencies displayed by both the "capitalist" West and the "revisionist" Communist Chinese.

In short, this small, dull volume contains no surprises. On the contrary, based on a number of updated articles which had previously appeared in *Mezhdunarodnaia zhizn'*, it represents a familiar propagandistic rehash of old arguments and claims—most of which, it may be safely assumed, though part of the ritual, are not taken seriously either by the writers themselves or by practitioners of Soviet foreign policy.

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HANDBOOK OF SOVIET SOCIAL SCIENCE DATA. Edited by *Ellen Mickiewicz*. Foreword by *Karl W. Deutsch*. New York: Free Press. London: Collier-Macmillan, 1973. xxvi, 225 pp. \$14.95.

For some time now, systematic Soviet studies has been a field in search of its data. Soviet specialists in search of data have usually had to glean it piecemeal from diverse Soviet sources—a painstaking and time-consuming task. Ellen Mickiewicz's handbook, the first attempt in English to compile a comprehensive set of empirical data on the USSR, will be welcomed by all interested in placing the quantitative study of the Soviet system on a more stable basis.

The handbook is introduced by Mickiewicz's substantial essay on various ways of using Soviet data in both cross-national analysis and interrepublic comparisons within the Soviet Union. The handbook's nine chapters and their compilers include demography (Warren Eason), agriculture (Roy Laird), production (Stanley Cohn), health (Mark Field), housing (Henry Morton), education (Jonathan Pool, Jeremy Azrael, Jaan Pennar, Ivan Bakalo, and George Bereday), "elite recruitment and mobilization" (Ellen Mickiewicz), communications (Gayle Hollander), and "international interactions" (Roger Kanet). Each chapter begins with a brief headnote followed by numbered tables displayed in a readable manner, with source notes for each table at the end of the chapter. The more than two hundred tables are conveniently listed with page references at the front of the handbook.

Unfortunately, certain problems beyond the control of the editor and her

associates are inherent in the handbook. First, Soviet political sensitivity has inevitably limited the handbook's topical coverage, one example being the omission of legal statistics, which are not available in any but the most fragmentary form. Second, the general lack of data on the interwar period has necessarily required orienting the handbook toward "modern, post-Stalin data," which are both "more abundant and more reliable than earlier data" (p. 3). Finally, and unavoidably, the quality of data varies in the handbook. The majority is the "hard" data obtained from counting cattle or city hospitals, but in places one finds Soviet estimates (p. 171, table 23), Western estimates to ensure "international comparability" (pp. 91, 93-94, tables 1-7), and even Western "approximations based on educated guessing" (pp. 197, 219-221, table D.1). Given this problem, the editor's covering maxim, "Be aware of the limitations of Soviet data, but take advantage of their increasing variety and amount" (p. 2), is well taken.

Notwithstanding these inherent problems, I would expect Mickiewicz's carefully prepared handbook to become a useful contribution to the continuing evolution of Soviet studies. Toward this end, a paperback edition for classroom adoption would be most welcome.

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THE SOVIET UNION AND THE DEVELOPING NATIONS. Edited by
Roger E. Kanet. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press,
1974. xiii, 302 pp. \$12.50.

This collection of ten articles, written by various authors specializing in Soviet foreign relations, surveys the Soviet Union's current policies toward the Third World. The editor begins the volume with a recap of the changing Communist ideological line on the colonial question and the Third World since the 1920s. The opening chapters do not directly introduce the volume but rather stand in contrast to the remaining chapters, which show how little use the ideological rhetoric is in explaining actual Soviet behavior. The articles on the individual areas of Africa, Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America review both the Soviet attitudes as shown in their publications and the course of trade, social, and political relations between the Soviet Union and the individual countries in each area. They provide a useful summary of the known facts about these relations. An exception is the chapter on Africa, which confines itself almost exclusively to the changing attitudes and ideological debates in the Soviet Union and ignores what has been the actual course of relations. It ignores such important questions as the amount of Soviet aid and its limits and the competition between China and the Soviet Union in Africa. The last three chapters deal with the overall view of Soviet economic relations with the Third World, the Soviet Union's relations with the developing states in the United Nations, and the consequences of the Sino-Soviet split on relations with the Third World, particularly as reflected in aid policies. The essay on the United Nations uses primarily an analysis of the voting patterns in the General Assembly to show the shifting balance and support for the Soviet Union and its causes, and Soviet support for Third World issues. It omits a discussion of strategies or particular issues.

The authors of these surveys have neither the space nor information to go into Soviet relations with these areas in any depth. And because they are so close to