

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