

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A RUSSIAN LEGAL CONSCIOUSNESS. By Richard S. Wortman. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1976. xii, 345 pp. \$20.00.

During the past decade, Russia's Great Reforms have received considerable attention in the historical literature. The excellent studies published by Emmons, Field, Starr, and Kaiser on the emancipation of 1861, the zemstvo reforms, and the judicial reform have revised considerably our views about the manner in which these changes were brought about and their impact upon Russian society. Richard Wortman's study adds a further dimension to this new body of work on the Great Reforms, and it considerably exceeds his modest claim that it is "an inquiry into the changes in composition and attitudes that took place in the Russian judicial administration in the decades leading up to the Reform of 1864" (p. 5).

Wortman, in fact, explains how an entirely new legal ethos emerged in Russia during the first half of the nineteenth century. During the eighteenth century, attachment to personal power had made Russia's rulers "chary of all legal definition of authority" (p. 16), and their aristocratic servitors had "shared the ruler's disdain for the judiciary and the judicial function," both because they regarded judicial functions as beneath their dignity and because "a strong judiciary could only . . . threaten whatever benefits had accrued to them through personal connections and their own ruthlessness or enterprise" (p. 18). By the mid-nineteenth century, however, a new type of noble judicial official—the very antithesis of his eighteenth-century counterpart—had emerged in Russia's courts and central judicial administration. Wortman argues that these young noblemen, who came from the ranks of those who had traditionally risen through military service, found their "self-definition in a new conception of the importance of law. They began to conceive of the dispensation of justice as a calling rather than a duty connected with their service obligation" (p. 198). Most of all, "they began to see themselves as servants of the law and looked to their work in service for the realization of their own aspirations as noblemen" (p. 198).

It is this evolutionary process that Wortman analyzes in his study, and the result is impressive. But *The Development of a Russian Legal Consciousness* is more than a well-researched, well-written book about the development of Russia's legal institutions, the changing character of their personnel, and their evolving attitudes. Wortman also has provided us with a sensitive and thought-provoking account of the Russian bureaucratic mind as it developed within the judicial and administrative agencies during the three-quarters of a century before the judicial reform of 1864. His conclusions pose further vital questions: did the officials of other ministries follow a pattern of intellectual evolution similar to that which he elaborates for Russia's judicial administration? Or, was the experience of the personnel in these institutions unique, perhaps because of their education in the Imperial School of Jurisprudence and their choice of service in the Ministry of Justice or the Senate? Wortman's discussion on the role of the *pravovedy* in other state agencies points the way to further study of these problems. His book is one of the most impressive works on the Russian bureaucracy yet to appear.

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KROPOTKIN. By Martin A. Miller. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 1976. x, 342 pp. \$15.00.

This is the second biography in English of one of the most attractive figures of the Russian revolutionary movement. Unlike many of his Russian contemporaries, Kropotkin also played an important role in the annals of Western radicalism and produced