

reforms and their effects. Given that at least partial reforms have been introduced, off and on, in the area since 1957–58, enough observations should be available to make possible at least a stab at intercountry comparisons of the effects of reforms on factor productivity. One statistical technique to explore this problem is multiple regression. It would be interesting to see whether the introduction of a dummy variable, standing for reform in the system, into a multiple-regression equation purporting to explain variation in factor productivity through time or across centrally planned economies would help to reduce significantly the variance otherwise unaccounted for in this dependent variable. We are not sure at this point whether partial reforms make a sufficient difference in the routine management of the economy to show up in *any* statistical outcome of the economic process.

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THE "SICK HEART" OF MODERN EUROPE: THE PROBLEM OF THE DANUBIAN LANDS. By *Hugh Seton-Watson*. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1975. xii, 76 pp. \$4.95.

Hugh Seton-Watson's fundamental point, that the Danubian lands have been the sick heart of twentieth-century Europe, depends on his threefold analysis that World War I grew out of the "clash of conflicting nationalisms in Central Europe," that World War II grew out of "the national and social conflicts . . . in the Danube lands," and that the current situation in Eastern Europe is one of "national humiliation" for eighty million Europeans. One can appreciate the historical realities that lead Professor Seton-Watson to this conclusion, and one can admire the erudition and learning that alone can produce a mature synthesis such as this, but one need not agree. World War I can be understood as a conflict between the modern principle of nationalism and the medieval one of *kaisertreue*, but today many would say that the Central European powers entered the war to expand or preserve their international position. World War II grew out of the wreckage of that first war, but its causes were linked with German policies more than with Danubian conflicts, severe though they were. Few Western specialists will disagree that Eastern Europe under Soviet domination is not a desirable or encouraging situation, but whether the problems there are analogous to those of two generations ago is doubtful. Agree or disagree, however, this brief book is a small miracle—how many books are of equal interest to both the specialist and the beginner, as is this one?

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