

THE FOUNDING OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE IN ASIA AND AMERICA.

By *John A. Harrison*. Coral Gables: University of Miami Press, 1971. 156 pp. \$7.95.

Professor Harrison, who won his laurels as a serious scholar with his study of *Japan's Northern Frontier* and his research on the Ainu, has of late been writing less original but equally useful books, in which he has tried to pull together the detailed, specialized research of fellow scholars and present it as lucidly and concisely as possible for the consumption of college students. In *The Founding of the Russian Empire in Asia and America* Harrison summarizes the history of the Russian drive across northern Asia and the northern Pacific from the ninth to the nineteenth century. He does so in three logical parts: (1) "The Land and the People," in which he describes the great importance of nature in the creation and expansion of the Russian Empire; (2) "The Gathering of Russia," in which he traces the history of Russia from the heterogeneity of Slavic duchies to the creation of a single Russian state powerful enough to expand eastward; and (3) the "Moving Frontier," in which he describes the eastward drive, step by step, from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century, when the Russian Empire reached its maximum size. The result is an informative, easy-to-follow account of Russia's drive across northern Asia and the northern Pacific, which should lend itself well as collateral reading in courses on Western civilization, world history, East Asian international relations, and the United States in the Pacific.

A book of this sort can be no more accurate than its sources, and since the sources, however famous, fail to make the necessary distinction between Mongols and Tatars, Harrison, in following them, slips into using the two appellations interchangeably, even though he realizes (p. 126) that Russian and Chinese authors were mistaken in calling many non-Tatar steppe peoples—including the Mongols—Tatar. This common confusion and some minor errors ("Polovtsoi" instead of Polovtsy, for example) are marginal to the theme of the book, however, and do not seriously detract from Harrison's success in reducing a highly complex subject to a coherent narrative that can be understood and followed with interest by college students.

At a time when budget cuts and soaring expenditures force publishers to bring out ever more drab-looking books, the University of Miami Press deserves praise for the fine physical appearance of the book, designed by Bernard Lipsky and printed by the Rose Printing Company of Tallahassee.

GEORGE ALEXANDER LENSEN
Florida State University

CHINA AND RUSSIA: THE "GREAT GAME." By *O. Edmund Clubb*. Studies of the East Asian Institute, Columbia University. New York and London: Columbia University Press, 1971. xiii, 578 pp. \$12.95.

The "Great Game" is, it would seem, the "long struggle for dominance" between Russia and China, which Professor Clubb identifies as the basic theme of this big book. The struggle began early, he seems to say, and continued "even after they discarded their 'imperial' aspects." Hence a knowledge of the imperial past of the two empires is necessary for a full understanding of current relations. The author does not entirely prove his generalizations. Indeed over the long haul it is doubtful that intercourse between the two may persistently be called a struggle; there have been

longer periods of peaceful coexistence than of conscious effort of either to dominate the other or its lands.

This volume surveys the intercourse between Russia and China from earliest times (the seventeenth century with a glance back at the Mongol Empire) to the present, strongly emphasizing conventional diplomatic and political relations. All major and well-known events in this intercourse are described: the Nerchinsk and Kiakhta treaties and the "normalization" of commerce and relations, the nineteenth-century participation of Russia in the imperialist pressure on China, the Kuomintang-Communist United Front of the 1920s, the "second" United Front of the 1930s, the early collaboration of Red China and the Soviet Union, and the Sino-Soviet "cold war" after 1964. There is little new, and the flavor of presentation is much the same as earlier general histories on the subject.

Despite the author's effort, there is no theme or set of themes which inform the study. The two countries have never fought each other on any substantial scale, and military history is therefore properly not highlighted; the very important commercial and economic relations over the centuries are not presented or analyzed systematically; diplomacy is not examined in depth or in the light of the mechanics of decision-making; and the popular images each country has had of the other are neglected. For the general reader this is a handy and up-to-date overview of the conventional diplomatic relations between the two empires, strengthened by a considerable effort on the author's part to let us know how China was interacting with other countries (although little about what Russia or the Soviet Union was involved in). Scholars of diplomacy or of Russian or Chinese history will want to go beyond to the recent and fine works of more limited scope by Mancall, Hsü, B. I. Schwartz, Brandt, Whiting, and McLane, among others.

CLIFFORD M. FOUST
University of Maryland

MICHEL BAKOUNINE ET SES RELATIONS AVEC SERGEJ NEČAEV, 1870-1872: ÉCRITS ET MATÉRIAUX. By *Mikhail Bakunin*. Introduction and annotation by *Arthur Lehning*. Archives Bakounine, vol. 4. Publiées pour L'Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis Amsterdam par A. Lehning. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1971. lxxix, 492 pp. 152 Dutch guilders.

As late as 1872, four years before his death, several governments wanted to hang Bakunin, others to shoot him, four or five to lock him up for life, and one or two merely to push him off a cliff and to hell with public opinion. Any man receiving that kind of attention must be reckoned with, and he deserves a Boswell: at a couple of removes, Bakunin has found Arthur Lehning of Amsterdam. This is the latest volume in Lehning's series for the International Institute of Social History, and like its predecessors it is very useful. Lehning deserves much credit for his decision to publish documents in the original version; there are translations to give the book an obviously greater utility, but one is grateful for the uncut material.

This volume brings together many of the known sources on the Western phase of the Nechaevshchina, the affair that scarred Bakunin emotionally and politically and helped to discredit him in working-class and socialist circles north of the Alps. Most of the sources have appeared in print before. Michael Confino, Tatiana Bakounine, and Jacques Catteau have used the same archives in the Bibliothèque