

had an unambiguous desire, at whatever cost, to change the behavior of enterprise managers toward efficiency by according them greater freedom, so as to permit them to respond "spontaneously" to objective economic "levers." These "levers" were to be: prices, profits, return on capital, a capital charge, incentive funds, and a greater role for bank credits. This clear intent of the leadership was then frustrated by a conservative, self-seeking economic bureaucracy. The bureaucracy did indeed curb the "spontaneity" that developed in the first years of the reform, but it surely did so with the tacit approval of the party, which was not willing to relinquish any of the familiar controls as the price to be paid for greater efficiency.

In interpreting the behavior of both the economic bureaucracy and the political leadership during a decade of reforms, this reviewer believes that account should be taken of the fact that both were engaged in an impossible task from the outset. To boost economic efficiency and growth, the leadership was persuaded to launch a "reform" that in effect attempted to mimic the forms and verbiage of a market system without creating markets; it sought "businesslike" behavior from enterprises without in any way putting them in a business (market) environment. Instead of behaving like businessmen, Soviet enterprise managers continued to behave much as before, because the economic environment was unchanged—that of state-owned producing units administered by government bureaus through a system of taut, directive planning. As Ryavec points out, the leadership is now supporting more of the same "reforms," supplemented with managerial training, modern managerial techniques (for example, systems analysis), and computers. Since none of these innovations alters any essential of the Soviet economic system, the behavior of its participants also will not change in any fundamental way, and the chronic, systemically-based economic malfunctions will persist. The party has "engaged," not in an effort to re-form the present system, but in an effort to make it significantly more productive and efficient without doing so. There is no evidence of "tension" among the political leadership over this fundamental issue of systemic reform, nor is there evidence even of its conscious recognition.

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SIBERIA TODAY AND TOMORROW: A STUDY OF ECONOMIC RESOURCES, PROBLEMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS. By *Violet Conolly*. New York: Taplinger Publishing Company, 1976. 248 pp. Illus. Maps. \$20.00.

Siberia, long a symbol of vastness, hardship, and natural wealth, clearly stands today as one of the world's major reserves of conventional energy and industrial raw material. Indeed, according to Miss Conolly, Siberia is at once "the future base of Soviet economic power" and "the world's largest and richest developing country." Such grand assertions may remain in doubt but readers of this volume will certainly agree with the author that the impact of Siberia's resources will be increasingly felt in the Soviet Union as well as in international commodity markets.

Until recently interest in the development of Siberia has been confined almost entirely to the Soviet Union and to a handful of Soviet specialists, like Miss Conolly, in the West and Japan. During the 1970s, however, a number of factors (including "détente," increased Soviet interest in international trade, rapidly escalating energy costs, and a growing general concern about raw material supplies among the industrial countries) have combined to create widespread interest in the potential impact of Soviet resources on the world economy. Because that potential hinges in large measure on future developments in Siberia, a book reporting on the region's resources and economy is certainly timely.

The author's purpose is to present a balanced account of the Siberian economy with attention to readers interested in the region but unfamiliar with the Russian

language. This balance is achieved by judicious reporting of success along with failure, of great hopes along with grave problems, and by drawing upon journalistic accounts of local tribulations to enliven production statistics. But with the nonspecialist in mind, Miss Conolly ranges over subject matter so diverse that penetration of fundamental economic issues is sometimes sacrificed. A general introduction is provided in the first three chapters which deal, respectively, with the natural environment, the establishment of Russian and Soviet authority, and the political-administrative features of the region. An overview of the Siberian economy (chapter 4—one of the better parts of the volume) is then followed by a series of more detailed descriptions (chapters 5–10) of individual sectors including energy, mining and metallurgy, chemical industries, land and water resources, transport, and, finally, population and labor. The remainder of the book (chapters 11–14) introduces a variety of special interest topics which, with the exception of trade relations with other countries, make only a marginal contribution to the main theme of the book. The volume concludes with an updating postscript that includes a discussion of the Baikal-Amur Mainline (BAM), a railway construction project that will be a major factor in opening up new resources during the 1980s.

Although Miss Conolly credits key Western books pertaining to different aspects of Siberian development (for example, Armstrong's *Russian Settlement in the North* [1965] and especially Shabad's *Basic Industrial Resources of the USSR* [1969]), most of her information was apparently drawn from a painstaking review of Russian source materials. Unfortunately, a decision not to list those materials systematically means that the book is underdocumented for research purposes. Abundant factual detail is combined with a solid perspective on the region's overriding problems (harsh environments, lack of infrastructure, and generally poor relative location), but a serious reader is likely to find the volume a bit short on analysis. Maps are provided at various places in the text but they are too few in number and their usefulness is limited by poor cartographic design.

Despite such shortcomings, those looking for a wide-ranging survey of contemporary Siberia will find this book well worth reading. It is probably the best of its kind on today's market.

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THE YOUNG RUSSIANS. By *Georgie Anne Geyer*. Homewood, Ill.: ETC Publications, 1975. x, 299 pp. \$10.50.

Ms. Geyer is a journalist in her early forties, and evidently a very successful one, to judge from the biographical data given on the dust jacket. *The Young Russians* is said to be based in part on a series she did for the *New York Times*. Perhaps it was the series that enabled the publisher to collect blurbs from four recognized authorities.

Ms. Geyer deserves credit for knowing more about Russia than most journalists do. She has been there at least twice since 1967. She has learned some Russian. She has interviewed many unusual Soviet citizens as well as knowledgeable Americans, and she has apparently read a good deal, although her claim to "have read very nearly everything published . . . on every aspect of . . . Russian youth" may be labeled—charitably—as extravagant.

The professionals and preprofessionals who read *Slavic Review* can benefit from some of Ms. Geyer's observations, for example, concerning class differences, sexual relations, and Soviet education. They will easily penetrate slight disguises like "Mayokovsky," "Mandelsham," "Konei Chukovsky," or "Tretykov." They will recognize from the context that "Petrozabots" is Petrozavodsk, "Kanev" is Kamenev, and