

With all the weaknesses, Skyttä's two volumes do provide a good deal of information if used with appropriate care and reserve. But they certainly will not remain the final word on the life and career of President Kekkonen, whose complexity, stature, and significance to Finnish history deserve far more serious and thorough study.

The memoirs of J. O. Söderhjelm, a Finnish politician and businessman, concentrate on describing the Finno-Russian negotiations in which he has participated, and he provides some interesting information about the steps taken toward the conclusion of the 1948 Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance between the two states. Rainer von Fieandt also had a dual career in business and public life. For several decades he headed one of the two leading commercial banks in Finland and served once as prime minister. His memoirs throw some new light on the economic and business history of his country.

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UPRISING IN EAST GERMANY: JUNE 17, 1953. By *Arnulf Baring*. Translated by *Gerald Onn*. Introduction by *David Schoenbaum*. Foreword by *Richard Lowenthal*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 1972. xxvii, 194 pp. \$8.75.

The outgrowth of an earlier Columbia University master's thesis, Arnulf Baring's book first appeared in 1965 as *Der 17. Juni 1953* (Cologne and Berlin: Kiepenheuer & Witsch). The present unaltered English version is a faithful and entirely fluent translation of the original German text. It also contains eleven major documents relating to the uprising.

Baring presents a first-rate case study in the political sociology of revolution. Analyzing both the background and the actual course of the East German uprising, he pinpoints the particular circumstances that made for a revolutionary situation and depicts the dynamics of an upheaval that required massive Soviet intervention to put down. Baring argues that the uprising was doomed to failure in any event, owing to the absence of effective revolutionary organization and leadership. He concludes by noting that conditions in East Germany have changed since 1953, such that "the time is ripe for evolution and not revolutions."

The latter thought informs Richard Lowenthal's substantial foreword to the book, also reproduced in translation from the original German edition. Lowenthal sketches the international background to the East German rising and stresses the passivity of Western diplomacy, which in his view resulted in a "missed opportunity." For Lowenthal the lesson is clear: "Instead of waiting for the Soviet leadership to clarify its position, the Western powers [should] try to influence that process by putting forward constructive proposals." Coming from a close confidant of Willy Brandt, whose *Ostpolitik* embodies this very proposition, Lowenthal's words have added significance.

The present volume includes a pithy but pointed introduction, especially written for the English edition by David Schoenbaum, who suggests that, properly demythologized, the East German uprising still "deserves to be remembered." This reviewer fully agrees and warmly recommends Baring's study for the purpose.

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