

AMERICAN AND SOVIET AID: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS. By Robert S. Walters. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1970. xiii, 299 pp. \$9.95.

The main contribution of this book lies in tracing the evolution of policy. That the United States and the Soviet Union both hope economic aid will win international support for their respective concepts of desirable social, political, and economic progress is one of the principal themes. This aspect of aid motivation explains why programs are continued even though complete identity of views on political issues between donor and donee rarely occurs. Thus, although the two economic assistance programs are different in their objectives, the use of aid as an instrument of foreign policy reveals some essential similarities. In each case the motivation seems strongest in its negative sense. If either aid donor were to be confronted with the choice of enhancing its influence or of having the influence of the other reduced, it would probably opt for the latter.

The meticulous political analysis in the first part of the book unfortunately gives way to conventional recitations when the author begins to discuss the magnitude of aid programs. He issues the caveat that "a precise and universally acceptable definition of what constitutes aid has yet to be formulated" (p. 70), but then he indiscriminately adopts figures from a wide variety of sources without ever clearly delineating such basic concepts as "grant" and "loan." A whole chapter is on "Terms of Aid," yet the reader finds no clues on how the concessionary provisions (interest rate, maturity years, grace period) and trading stipulations (aid tying, soft currency provisions, surplus commodities) affect aid values. If he had assessed the grant equivalents of aid commitments, the author would not have to settle for such a vague statement as "The average interest rate and maturity figures cited for American loans overstate the hardness of the financial terms" (p. 154). By how much? Indeed, it is an understatement that "45 percent of all U.S. economic assistance in 1968 was given in the form of grants," because in fact the grant ratio amounted to 0.68. In comparison, the grant ratio of USSR aid was substantially less—about 0.42 (J. Horvath, "On the Evaluation of International Grants Policy," *Public Finance*, no. 2, 1971). Use of the analytical methods developed by Pincus and Ohlin could have significantly improved the precision of the book. All in all, even a lucid political assessment is bound to lose its applicability in the eyes of policy-makers if the economic magnitudes are measured only by a rule of thumb.

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NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE SOVIET UNION: THEIR USE AND RENEWAL. Edited by I. P. Gerasimov, D. L. Armand, and K. M. Yefron. Translated by Jacek I. Romanowski. English edition edited by W. A. Douglas Jackson. San Francisco: W. H. Freeman, 1971. xiii, 349 pp. \$12.50.

In recent years the USSR has become increasingly aware of environmental difficulties affecting the quality of Soviet life and the attainment of economic objectives. *Natural Resources of the Soviet Union* is one of the earlier efforts to focus attention on a wide array of environmental problems, including the sharp decline in the fish catch caused by the shrinkage of the Caspian Sea and the "catastrophic" industrial pollution of the Volga system, the immense losses of agricultural land from erosion

and unwise irrigation practices, and the pouring of industrial pollutants into the air of Russian cities at levels far exceeding permissible norms. This book is a translation of a Soviet collection of articles, primarily by geographers, pertaining to the use of water resources, climate, vegetation, agricultural land, and fish and game supplies. It provides an illuminating overview of Soviet resource problems and potentials with particularly informative sections on agricultural land, forestry, and fishing.

The book is marred by several shortcomings. Since the appearance of the Russian original in 1963, major environmental events have occurred, such as the comprehensive codification of water use and the significant debate over the industrial pollution of Lake Baikal. Another drawback is the failure to cover mineral resources because of the conflicting jurisdictions of research institutes. Combined with the fragmented agencies of planning and administration, this divided authority typifies a fundamental problem of Soviet resource use. The book makes virtually no effort to treat interrelated problems in a broad, cost-benefit sense or in relation to national economic priorities. These oversights, in turn, seem to stem from the inadequate coordination of the individual studies, particularly the failure of the Russian editors to outline common problems and trace possible avenues of resolution.

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RUSSIANS IN SPACE. By *Evgeny Riabchikov*. Edited by *Colonel General Nikolai P. Kamanin*. Translated by *Guy Daniels*. Prepared by the Novosti Press Agency Publishing House, Moscow. Garden City: Doubleday, 1971. v, 300 pp. \$10.00.

Quite a few months ago a high Doubleday official told me in triumph, yet with some amusement too, that he had just returned from Moscow after negotiating and signing a contract with Soviet space exploration officials and the Novosti Press Agency for a book to be done by a Soviet author that would "for the first time give the real facts and photos of the Soviet space effort, none published before." The amusement in his account was about the glorious red carpet Moscow had spread for him: banquets with all the generals and officials of the space program, also with cosmonauts and rocket scientists and engineers, vodka and speeches flowing all through his stay.

Well, the book is done and out now. The mountainous reception and publicity gave birth to a truly mousy result. Riabchikov, a rather well-known writer on Soviet flying and rocketry, spins a typical Sunday supplement story: coy, cloying, disjointed, full of heroics and platitudes thudding flat. Chronologically the book opens with Gagarin's flight of 1961 and ends with the Dobrovolsky-Patsaev-Volkov tragedy of 1971. And in between we find flashbacks to Kibalchich of 1881 and to Tsiolkovsky up to his death in 1935, also the fullest biography yet to appear (even though poorly organized) of that great rocketry genius Sergei Korolev—but with not a word on his six years in Stalinist prisons!

Also, typically, not a single mention is made of Khrushchev's role in, and ebullience about, the Soviet rocketry of 1957–64, but Brezhnev is reverently quoted and a 1963 photograph of him (with three cosmonauts) is included. A few nuggets of valuable technical data are scattered throughout the text, but you have to hunt for them, and there is no index to help. The book is verbose, yet a sense of the