

extremely strong religious temperament over external circumstances, social pressures, and even, to some extent, intellectual conviction. In his autobiographical fragments, he points out that for a long time he was held back from full conversion and then from taking holy orders by the fact that these things were simply "not done" in his circle, and by his abhorrence of tsarism, and that it was only the disestablishment of the Russian Orthodox church by the October Revolution which finally removed all obstacles. This situation has its ironic aspect, in view of the present partial reestablishment of the Orthodox church and also the unmistakable signs of an Orthodox revival among the Soviet intelligentsia.

Perhaps it is unfair to fault the editors for not having put together a different book, but I think that it would have been better to include some of Bulgakov's detailed philosophical critique of Marxism, mentioned by Lev Zander in the memoir prefixed to the collection, rather than the heavily devotional material of the third section. Bulgakov's theological writings, as represented here, do not come to grips at all with the major social and political problems facing the Russian Orthodox church in the period in question, and, for this reason, are of no particular value to outsiders, although the sermon preached in the United States represents a partial exception.

In brief, the verdict must be: "better than nothing, but not nearly as good as it could have been."

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PUBLIC OPINION IN EUROPEAN SOCIALIST SYSTEMS. By *Walter D. Connor* and *Zvi Y. Gitelman*, with *Adaline Huszczo* and *Robert Blumstock*. New York and London: Praeger Publishers, 1977. x, 197 pp. Tables.

This work is an effort to broaden the study of Communist systems by analyzing the ways in which the existing social structures modify, constrain, and even affect the policies of the ruling regimes. While the authors recognize that Communist states attempt to direct the formation of public opinion, they are concerned in this work with the ways in which public opinion, once formed and legitimized, proceeds to limit to some degree the actions of the regime. Since the polling of public opinion is an essential step in the legitimation process of socialist states, most of the space in the book is devoted to the nature and content of socialist opinion polling in particular, and socialist survey research in general. Since for all practical purposes current socialist sociology is little else but survey research of one kind or another, it would have been possible to name the book "Sociology in European Socialist Systems."

The book consists of six chapters. Gitelman and Connor provide the opening and closing chapters in which they discuss the data from all European socialist countries. The four intervening chapters examine in greater detail the state and impact of opinion polling in four countries: Huszczo's chapter on Poland, Gitelman's on Czechoslovakia, Connor's on the Soviet Union, and Blumstock's on Hungary. The omission of Rumania and Bulgaria was prompted by their relative underdevelopment, and the reason for excluding Yugoslavia was its tenuous connection with the Soviet bloc.

The chapters dealing with individual countries contain a thorough discussion of the historical development of opinion polling in each country, an outline of representative samples of some of the most important polls and their results, a review of the major problems encountered by pollsters, and finally a description of the complex role played by the party in all of these activities. The major conclusion reached by all authors is that opinion polling still remains a relatively undeveloped aspect of socialist states and much of what is learned remains confidential, to be used only by the regime. In Connor's words, "while the regimes are more interested now in public opinion than in the past, they are no more ready now than before to

submit to it, to be guided by it, in those areas where basic political decisions are made" (p. 181).

The authors' task is well executed, for one rarely encounters a more satisfying book written by as many as four authors. If any regrets are to be expressed, it is that the authors have limited themselves much too narrowly, both conceptually and empirically. The material they present begs for linkage to some of the central questions posed by classical social theorists. Tocqueville, for example, considered public opinion to be a replacement for traditional authority. According to this view, given the absence of genuine intermediate associations between the individual and the state, as in the case with socialist societies, public opinion operates for the benefit of centralized, tyranny-prone authority. There seems to be a need to reconcile Tocqueville's view (and similar views of other classical writers) with the contributors' implicit assumption that the full-fledged operation of public opinion would somehow work in opposition to the tyranny of the party.

Moreover, by excluding Bulgaria, the authors lost an opportunity to examine a unique case of survey research in a highly bureaucratized stage of development. Bulgarian sociology is primarily a research discipline with direct state support that does not have to be filtered either through the university or the Academy of Sciences. Nationwide survey results are channeled directly to the appropriate organs of the party and the government, and seem to be even more secret than those of other socialist countries. One can argue that future public opinion polling and sociology in European socialist systems is more likely to resemble that of Bulgaria than the other way around.

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JAHRBUCH DER WIRTSCHAFT OSTEUROPAS. Edited by *Hans Raupach*.

Yearbook of East-European Economics, vol. 6. Veröffentlichung des Osteuropa-Instituts München. Munich and Vienna: Günter Olzog Verlag, 1975. 487 pp. Tables.

The first two sections of this book contain fifteen essays on East European economics by Western and East European contributors. With few exceptions these essays are disappointing, either yielding indifferent answers to interesting questions or addressing questions of dubious importance. The blame for this low quality can be laid, to a great extent, at the feet of the editors: the book contains ample evidence of their indifference toward editing. Thus, none of the English-speaking editors saw fit to render the editors' preface into proper English. Similarly, the articles by East European contributors were published in the form in which they were received. While I admire the ability of these authors to write scientific papers in a language other than their native tongue, their ideas would have been much more comprehensible and better received had the editors undertaken to improve the grammar and the technical vocabulary of these papers. In all fairness it must be reported that the editors did not discriminate in their indifference; one of them clearly failed to proofread his own contribution.

Amidst all this, two contributions worthy of note are those by Jozef van Brabant and John P. Farrell. Van Brabant examines the pattern of Polish foreign trade in order to determine the way in which unplanned trade transactions are accommodated in Poland's trade with market and planned economies. He makes skillful use of limited data and scrupulously points out the potential shortcomings of his findings. Farrell examines the operations of the Polish National Bank from 1950 to 1970. Although