

a humanism or a temporary psychological enthusiasm" (p. 191). Nissiotis ends his essay by lauding Father Florovsky's Christocentric-ecclesial theology as a constructive contribution enabling the Orthodox to involve themselves in the world.

While this review has only commented on two of the thirteen essays contained in this valuable volume, all the articles are of high quality and deserve a wide reading. In short, the essays are indeed a fitting tribute to Father Florovsky. The editors are to be commended for their efforts.

CARNEGIE SAMUEL CALIAN
University of Dubuque

LAW OF BANKING IN EAST-WEST TRADE. By *Iván Meznerics*. Translated by *Emil Böszörményi Nagy*. Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.: Oceana Publications. Leiden: A. W. Sijthoff, 1973. 427 pp. \$22.50.

In what appears to be a translation of a text for advanced law students, the author surveys civil law institutions used in payments, credits, and other banking operations in the East and the West. There is little in the book relating to East-West trade, per se. Over half the book is devoted to Western legal codes, a topic not likely to interest the Western reader. The author's discussion of the role of banking legislation in socialist legal systems, however, does yield several insights. Socialist banking legislation has for the most part been included in state administrative law rather than in the civil codes. With the growing independence of socialist enterprises, a trend has emerged extending the scope of civil law to regulate the commercial relations of enterprises and the banks. Despite some progress in this direction, credit relationships are still largely regulated by recourse to administrative methods. The author, general counsel of the National Bank of Hungary, has included a number of examples illustrating legal changes connected with Hungary's recent economic reforms.

LAWRENCE J. BRAINARD
New York City

WEST GERMAN TRADE WITH THE EAST: THE POLITICAL DIMENSION. By *Robert W. Dean*. Praeger Special Studies in International Politics and Government. New York, Washington, London: Praeger Publishers, 1974. xvi, 270 pp. 10 tables. \$17.50.

Mr. Dean's study is concerned with the political role trade has played in the relations of the Federal Republic of Germany with the communist countries of Eastern Europe. The central hypothesis of the book is that, in the case of West Germany, East-West trade has been in large part a function of East-West political relations and objectives. Giving a detailed historical report of the Federal Republic's Ostpolitik, the author criticizes Chancellor Adenauer for a seemingly passive, negative and "short-sighted" policy, while praising the attempts of Adenauer's successors to respond to the centrifugal political, economic and social changes that have occurred in Eastern Europe since Stalin's death.

Considerable space is legitimately devoted to the particular economic relations of the two Germanies, still called "inner-German trade" for mostly nostalgic reasons, although it represents only a fractional part of prewar exchange. The development of trade between East and West Germany since World War II gives

useful evidence to support the author's thesis of the overriding importance of politics. Of course, this trade was hampered not so much by too little or too much Ostpolitik, but rather by the attempts of the German Democratic Republic to reduce its dependence on West German deliveries out of fear of possible blackmail and disturbances.

Trade with the Soviet Union and other East European countries was much less affected by political dissensions, notwithstanding the embarrassing steel pipe embargo in 1963. After Khrushchev quoted Lenin's recommendation to "learn from the capitalists," the communist countries showed a growing inclination to import machinery and equipment from the West. The establishment of German trade missions and embassies in Eastern Europe in the sixties and the new post-1969 Ostpolitik of the SPD/FDP government, which settled such questions as the Polish western border and the existence of the second German state, have certainly facilitated West German exports to the East.

However, less than 8 percent of West Germany's total foreign trade is carried on with the Soviet bloc (including the German Democratic Republic). The continuing marginal importance of this trade is caused by the communist countries' failure to keep pace with technological progress in the world, their inability to comply with the qualitative and service requirements of Western customers, and, therefore, their extremely poor performance as salesmen of industrial goods. Bilateral balancing imposes de facto trade ceilings reflecting the limited export capacity of the Eastern partners. The ever-growing demand for sophisticated technology from the West increases foreign currency constraints—the cumulative indebtedness to the West has soared to a total of 7 billion dollars—and must lead finally to restrictions on imports.

Only far-reaching economic reforms—substantially decentralizing planning and decision-making, as well as eliminating arbitrary price-fixing—could bring about significant East-West trade expansion. The prospect, however, is dim. The concern of the Communist parties of Eastern Europe with the maintenance of their power and Soviet determination to prevent centrifugal tendencies in the bloc will sooner or later stop any movement toward, for instance, the relatively successful Yugoslav model.

The improvement of political relations between East and West will not, in my opinion, appreciably increase East-West trade without broad economic reforms.

ROLAND SCHÖNFELD
Regensburg, West Germany

SOCIAL CHANGE AND STRATIFICATION IN EASTERN EUROPE: AN INTERPRETIVE ANALYSIS OF POLAND AND HER NEIGHBORS.

By *Alexander Matejko*. New York: Praeger Publishers, 1974. xxvi, 272 pp. \$18.50.

In this volume, Alexander Matejko, currently at the University of Alberta, examines social and economic progress in Eastern Europe, especially Poland, in order to assess whether it has resulted in equality. All chapters but one are revisions of previously published material.

After discussing egalitarianism and elitism, Matejko reviews economic progress in the Eastern European countries. Other chapters analyze classes important in