

tion to cast the United States in a negative position all have promoted the conditions for the simultaneous production of a self-fulfilling and a self-defeating prophecy. The Western observer looks for those realities that conform to and confirm his own political and ideological prejudices. The Soviets act secretively and thereby set the mental stage for hostile reactions which, while self-fulfilling for the Westerner, become self-defeating for the Soviet state. Until a more open dialogue is promoted one can only predict that reports such as Liegle's, as well as those penned by well-placed Western journalists, will continue to fulfill and defeat the competing definitions of the Soviet situation.

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HANDBOOK OF MAJOR SOVIET NATIONALITIES. Edited by *Zev Katz*, *Rosemarie Rogers*, and *Frederic Harned*. New York and London: Free Press and Collier Macmillan, 1975. xiv, 481 pp. \$25.00.

This book was compiled at the Center for International Studies of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, under contract to the United States Information Agency. It is a reference book containing general information on the major national minorities of the USSR, including the fifteen giving their names to the union republics, the Tatars, and the Jews. The national minorities are grouped by geographical and/or cultural affinity—such as Slavs, the Baltic people, Transcaucasians, and Central Asians. The discussion of each of the ethnic groups follows a common outline, under the headings of general information (territory, economy, history, demography, culture, and external relations), media (language, education, culture, and scientific institutions), and national attitudes (including analysis of the formation of national attitudes and evidence of nationalism).

All of these topics are discussed for each nationality in relation to the Russians who, in 1970, constituted 53 percent of the population of the USSR. The Russians' majority in the population and their roles in the Bolshevik Revolution (and before that in tsarist Russia) apparently have been responsible for their current monopoly of the highly responsible positions at the federal level. Because of this situation, no aspect of the minorities' life can be discussed (in this book, in the USSR, and elsewhere) without reference to the favored position of the Russians and Moscow's attitude toward it. The vital question, one that concerns the future of the USSR as a multilingual and multicultural society, is the degree of change that will occur in the relationship between the minorities and the Great Russians in the future. For example, what will be the nature of the Russians' participation when they no longer constitute a majority of the population? Will the Russians dominate the party apparatus and the government as they are doing now, even when the necessary levels of education and loyalty are met by the minorities? These questions are not dealt with adequately in the volume. It is quite possible that before the end of this decade the Russians will be a minority in the Soviet Union and the minorities will have developed (judged by present demographic and educational trends) educationally to a level comparable with that of the Russians. How will the Soviet Union avoid conflicting situations among its nationalities, and for how long?

Another important problem, which gets only passing discussion in this book, is the underemployment and unemployment of minorities, especially in the rural areas of Central Asia. What are the consequences of mass unemployment of rural Central Asians? Will there be forced evacuation of these people to the less populated areas of the USSR? Or will restrictions be put on immigration from areas

outside Central Asia? If the latter policy, a more probable one, is adopted, what will become of *sblizhenie-sliianie* (coming together and eventual merging), the apparent goal of Soviet nationality policy? The format of the *Handbook* restricts its authors from focusing on specific problems (such as those mentioned). Because the book is directed at the nonspecialist, it concentrates on a description of the present. There are, of course, some historical discussions. These range from the excellent discussions given Ukrainians, Kazakhs, Tatars, and the Tadzhiks to the skimpy one given the Uzbeks, in which the whole history of the Uzbek people is squeezed into a single paragraph.

In terms of quality, the articles in this book rate between mediocre and excellent. Fortunately, most of the articles are well researched and well written, and some of them, for example, those on Ukrainians, Kazakhs, Tatars, Tadzhiks, Moldavians, and the Jews, are insightful and learned.

The major problem with this work, in my view, is the inability of many of the participants to utilize works written by minorities in their own mother tongues. Except for Estonians, Turkmen, Tatars, Moldavians, and the Slavs, no work of local writers (past or present) is discussed or even mentioned in the bibliographies. The works of writers belonging to national minorities of the USSR, in their own languages, should be of major concern to those who are trying to assess the attitudes of these minorities toward the Soviet system, the Russians, each other, and people elsewhere in the world. Their writings should be of interest not only to scholars outside the USSR but also to the Russians, most of whom are innocent about other languages of the Soviet Union.

As an introduction to nationalities of the USSR, this book is a welcome addition to a growing list of good works.

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IN JOB'S BALANCES: ON THE SOURCES OF THE ETERNAL TRUTHS.

By *Lev Shestov*. Translated from the German by *Camilla Coventry* and *C. A. Macartney*. Introduction by *Bernard Martin*. Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 1975. lii, 379 pp. \$12.00.

In light of the debt owed the Ohio University Press for making available in English over the past ten years an entire series of works by the Russian existentialist philosopher and critic, Lev Shestov (1866–1938), only a churl could greet the present (seventh) volume without at least a show of gratitude. The fact is, however, that *In Job's Balances* has been available in English for a long time. Indeed, portions of the work have already appeared in other volumes of the Ohio University Press series. The chapter "What Is Truth?" was appended to the Press's edition of *Potestas Clavium* in 1968, and for this reason has been excluded from the present volume. However, other, shorter sections included here have also appeared earlier in the *Shestov Anthology* published by the Press in 1970.

It is, of course, useful to have the whole work once again in print, but even that boon has its blemishes. The 1932 translation used here—without revision—was done indirectly from a German translation. The resulting English text, though collated with the Russian and accurate in a general way, is not only remote from the original stylistically but is capable of promoting some unfortunate misunderstandings. Thus, to render Shestov's "dostovernost' sama po sebe, a istina sama po sebe" as "certainty and truth each exist independently" (p. 6) is to suggest, first,