

This book is to be recommended only to the unusual reader who would like to find out about Denikin's character and biography. Students of the Civil War will find little in it that is new.

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THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH UNDERGROUND, 1917–1970. By William C. Fletcher. New York and London: Oxford University Press, 1971. x, 314 pp. \$12.75.

Professor Fletcher draws several conclusions from his study of underground Orthodoxy: it is a response to Soviet persecution; persecution of Orthodoxy does not succeed, for it does not eradicate religion but drives it underground; this underground opposition serves as insurance that organized (presumably legal) religious institutions may continue to exist. The first two conclusions seem so obvious that they need no comment. Evidence for the third, however, is by no means conclusive. Indeed, judging by the final chapter, "The Continuing Crisis," one is left with the impression that the state has succeeded not only in closing more and more churches belonging to the "Patriarchal Church" but also in weakening underground Orthodoxy (*vide* pp. 198 and 262).

The book relies heavily on Soviet sociological research on religion, without which "this study could not have been written." Despite his impressive list of the great flaws in Soviet sociology, the author has decided that "there is a wealth of accurate information in these studies." But he provides no idea how he winnows these books to find the valuable kernels. For example, he describes the Soviet academician Mitrokhin as "careful and dispassionate" in his presentation of data and then quotes Mitrokhin (apparently as accurate) on the True Orthodox Christians: "[They] disseminated their blind and fanatical rumors by every means, 'testifying' to their prophecies. The very character of these rumours makes it possible to make a direct evaluation of the squalid clerical lives of these spiteful people, who were ready by any means to slander socialism. . . . Powerless to find support among Soviet people, [the leaders] linked the realization of their plans with imperialist aggression" (pp. 190–91). Such outbursts leave the reader wondering why Mitrokhin is described as careful and dispassionate and this "evidence" as a wealth of accurate information.

Fletcher's book nevertheless rightly corrects and dismisses the view popularized by Harrison Salisbury and others that the "Church indulges in no undercover activities."

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STALIN UND HITLER: PAKT GEGEN EUROPA. Edited by J. W. Brügel. Vienna: Europaverlag, 1973. 349 pp.

This volume is a collection of documents on German-Soviet relations in the period of the Nazi-Soviet pact. Included are materials of various European Communist parties and diplomatic documents, mainly from the German foreign ministry. Almost nine-tenths of the documents have been published previously, many in complete texts rather than with omissions as here. Some have either not been published