

1920s to the present-day State Committee on Science and Technology which operates under the auspices of the Council of Ministers of the USSR).

In conclusion, it must be noted that Soviet science policy was born during the years of the USSR's most acute economic crisis. Hence, there was a tendency to favor applied research and development over fundamental research. The imprint of economic necessity was to be reflected in early Soviet science policy, and was to be the key to all later attempts to rationalize the scientific-technical research structure. During Stalin's time, the applied research orientation could even be justified ideologically by arguing that in stressing practical applications, science was truly serving the people. The admission of the technical sciences to membership in the Academy of Sciences in the 1920s and 1930s further reflected this practical orientation. After Stalin's death, however, a reversal of this trend began, as the necessity of supporting fundamental scientific research became apparent in the age of the scientific-technical revolution.

Bastrakova's book contributes greatly to our understanding of the evolution of Soviet science policy. An informative preface provides important bibliographical references to published and archival sources which bear on the formation of Soviet science policy.

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LE STATUT DU CHERCHEUR EN U.R.S.S. By *J. Gueit*. Centre d'étude des pays socialistes et Groupe "Politique et Organisation de la Recherche." Paris: Service de Recherches Juridiques Comparatives, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, 1974. iii, 88 pp. Tables. Paper.

POLITIQUE SCIENTIFIQUE ET ORGANISATION DE LA SCIENCE EN URSS. By *Jean Gueit*. Paris: Service de Recherches Juridiques Comparatives, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, 1975. 59 pp. Tables. Paper.

Both of these volumes, based on selected Soviet publications, are descriptive studies of the position of research and researchers in the USSR. *Le statut de chercheur en U.R.S.S.* emphasizes the researcher in Soviet society: his role, recruitment, education, remuneration, training institutions, and research establishments. *Politique scientifique et organisation de la science en URSS* consists primarily of numerous organizational charts, diagrams, and statistical tables, accompanied by brief introductory explanations. In addition, the author considers broader aspects of research in the Soviet Union. The charts presented indicate: the role of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Council of Ministers in the formation of national scientific policy; the relationship of government planning and coordination to research, science, technology, and education; the structure and organization of Soviet research; and current liaisons between research and industry.

The two volumes should be particularly useful to the nonspecialist interested in Soviet research policy and institutions. Although they are of some value to Sovietologists, their significance is limited by the basically descriptive approach employed. Much of the information presented is already known to the specialist, or is readily available in Soviet publications. The importance of both volumes would have been enhanced considerably had extensive, in-depth, critical analyses been included.

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