

THE FUTURE OF INTER-BLOC RELATIONS IN EUROPE. Edited by *Louis J. Mensonides* and *James A. Kuhlman*. New York: Praeger Publishers, 1974. xiv, 217 pp. \$16.50.

As an entry in the Praeger Special Studies series, which is designed to "make immediately available" to specialists the "most up-to-date research" in international affairs, this volume is most unsatisfactory, despite the presence of much pertinent information, useful perspectives, and valuable insights. Consisting of papers presented at a December 1972 conference, the collection was not published until October 1974, thereby losing the promised immediacy. Further, because the chapters were evidently untouched for purposes of revision during the two-year time gap, the research was hardly up-to-date at publication. Thus, nowhere is the correct starting date—July 3, 1973—of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) indicated, nor the fact that it ultimately fielded thirty-five nations, rather than the thirty-four which negotiated the preparations for the CSCE, when the studies under review were presented. Similarly, in Richard F. Staar's otherwise valuable treatment of East-West military constraints, the force reduction talks (MBFR) are incorrectly located in Geneva (pp. 51 and 53), rather than Vienna where preparatory talks actually began in January 1973.

The book also suffers from sporadic copy-editing. For example, Robert H. Donaldson's generally informative study of the diplomacy leading up to the European security conference is marred by the designation of the conference both as the CSCE and as the ECSC (properly, the European Coal and Steel Community!), and frequently on the same pages (pp. 80, 81, 88, 95, 96).

Despite these serious flaws, the volume, evenly divided between quantitative and more traditional analyses, offers the wary specialist an important discussion in a much neglected area of scholarly concern.

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EASTERN EUROPE: A GEOGRAPHY OF THE COMECON COUNTRIES.
By *Roy E. H. Mellor*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1975. x, 358 pp.
Illus. Tables. \$17.50, cloth. \$9.00, paper.

Recent works in English covering the physical and human geography of Eastern European countries are in short supply, hence Professor Mellor's book is very welcome. The book is divided into three main parts. The first deals with the physical environment and political geography, the second with the demographic and economic framework of the region, and the third with Comecon and the national economies. The section on physical geography is short but succinct, containing enough information for the average reader, and avoiding the detailed descriptions of the geology often found in regional geographies of Europe. However, the physical geographer must look elsewhere for detailed information.

The section devoted to political geography consists of two lengthy chapters on the historical evolution of the region from the Greco-Roman period to the present. Mellor discusses the arrival of the Slavs, the emergence of the present ethnic structure, the growth of the Habsburg Empire, and the rise of the major nation-states in the region. The text is illustrated with a number of clear and well-designed maps.

The chapter on population contains useful information on population distribution and growth, including a comparison of population pyramids, as well as migra-