

BRITISH AND SOVIET POLITICS: LEGITIMACY AND CONVERGENCE. By *Jerome M. Gilison*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1972. xv, 186 pp. \$8.50.

This excursionary essay into comparative politics is welcome; it is ten years since Brzezinski and Huntington's *Political Power USA/USSR* (1963). The work concentrates on the legitimizing functions of Parliament and the Supreme Soviet and gives in the penultimate chapter (5) a model and several "scenarios" on the policy-making process of the two countries. Convergence is treated only briefly (pp. xiii-xiv, 180-81). The method is structural-functional (which "tends to underline similarities," p. x), building on Almond and Powell, Easton, and Weber (pp. 2-3, n. 1). The book has no bibliography and a weak index.

This comparative study will provide useful material for class and seminar discussion. Professor Gilison finds that the representative assemblies do not make law (p. 107), but rather legitimize and impart authority to it (pp. 93, 100, 105). Of particular interest are the "scenarios" of chapter 5 (pp. 138-69), which trace the course of low and high salience policy-making through the tiers of British and Soviet government charted on page 125.

On the critical side, two words. Professor Gilison's earlier work reveals an incisive analytical and critical capacity. But in this book his standards of evidence appear relaxed. He assumes rather than demonstrates the legitimacy of Soviet government (pp. 4, 11, 179); survival of a government does not in itself indicate legitimacy. Evidence for the British case is ample; for the Soviet case, assumptions often replace data (for example, see pp. 76, 95, 135, 147-50, 156, 168). Second, in taxonomy, likeness increases with distance from the object. On page 117 it is stated, "From a functional point of view, the Supreme Soviet and the British Parliament are more alike than is commonly acknowledged." The same can be said of a fin and a foot.

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DIE RUSSISCHE JUSTIZREFORM VON 1864: ZUR GESCHICHTE DER RUSSISCHEN JUSTIZ VON KATHARINA II. BIS 1917. By *Friedhelm Berthold Kaiser*. Studien zur Geschichte Osteuropas, 14. Leiden: E. J. Brill, 1972. xv, 552 pp. 91 Dglds.

This monograph about the Russian judicial reform of 1864 is a surprisingly interesting book about problems which seem to belong to the past but indeed have become very topical. The book might be helpful in understanding the political struggle for justice in any authoritarian regime. Like other regimes, this type needs an effective system of justice in order to preserve its own existence, but on the other hand every authoritarian ruler tries to transform the system of justice into an obedient servant of the administration; such dependence, of course, undermines the efficiency of justice as an instrument of social stability. These two tendencies are colorfully presented in Kaiser's book. It is a learned and thorough study written with German *Gründlichkeit*, but it is never boring. Some chapters are almost fascinating.

The book contains the following main parts: (1) a description of the state of justice in Russia between Catherine the Great and the Reform of 1864, (2) an