

present unsolved problems of dating and attribution. Second, in an "official" (granting for the moment that designation) chronicle of a powerful but not very subtle government, why such delicacy? And finally—a nagging question throughout—in whose eyes is this literature "justifying" the conquest? Before which court of law or public opinion did it need to be "legitimized"? Doubtless an occasional churchly scribe might praise his prince after the fact and rejoice in the victory of the Cross over the Crescent, but I find it a long jump from these scattered comments and exultations to an "imperial ideology."

In sum one must commend (and not only *pro forma*) Professor Pelenski for a truly impressive scholarly labor whose fruits will be of considerable usefulness to scholars for some time to come, while remaining unconvinced that Muscovy in the sixteenth century was consciously developing a systematic or abstract theory of legitimization or justification of its conquests. Moscow's political system was pragmatic and brutally efficient; its "political establishment" in the sixteenth century was building an empire, not an ideology.

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A FORGOTTEN EMPRESS: ANNA IVANOVNA AND HER ERA, 1730–1740. By *Mina Curtiss*. New York: Frederick Ungar, 1974. xvi, 335 pp. \$12.50.

Mina Curtiss makes a spirited effort to recall Empress Anne and her reign from a long lapse of professional interest. Historians indeed too often pass by the 1730s with a sneer. As Curtiss rightly points out, Anne's reign was in some respects a seminal one and deserves greater attention than it normally receives. The cause is a good one, the execution less so. The book suffers from the usual defects of amateur, anecdotal history. Dates and other facts frequently get twisted, and there is a heavy reliance on outmoded and ill-founded interpretations. Much material is simply lifted with little sifting from the contemporary accounts of Rondeau, Manstein, and Algarotti, and also from Waliszewski's well-known survey.

Still, the work contains some sparkling descriptions of court life and manners. Connoisseurs of such things will relish the lengthy catalogues of ceremony and attire, not to mention an entire chapter on the famous Ice Palace. Finally, without hiding the blemishes, Curtiss presents a sympathetic portrait of Empress Anne and brings to our attention some forgotten minor characters of the 1730s.

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MODERNIZATION OF RUSSIA UNDER PETER I AND CATHERINE II.

Edited by *Basil Dmytryshyn*. Major Issues in History. New York and Toronto: John Wiley & Sons, 1974. xi, 157 pp. Paper.

Designed for use in a freshman-sophomore survey course, this book of readings combines the necessary brevity with some depth and some variation of interpretation. Parallel sections on Peter I and Catherine II contain a sample of each ruler's handiwork, observations by contemporaries, discussions by eighteenth and nine-

teenth-century Russian historians, and an account by a Soviet historian. Five of the twelve readings have been translated from Russian into English by Professor Dmytryshyn.

Except for the Soviet account by M. V. Nechkina, which offers little in the way of interpretation, the readings on Peter—by Perry, Weber, Vockerodt, Shcherbatov, and Kliuchevskii—are excellent and should contribute much to the students' understanding of Peter's reign and its significance. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the readings on Catherine, which stress the old themes of vanity, hypocrisy, and superficiality, and say little about her modernizing reforms outside the realm of art and culture. After Shcherbatov and Masson something more than Ikonnikov is needed to explain how anyone could ever have thought of Catherine as "great." Especially objectionable is the implied contrast between Peter's *ukazy*, introduced by the heading "modernization by administrative decrees," and Catherine's *nakaz*, introduced by the heading "modernization through plagiarism." Catherine issued her share of decrees and Peter also plagiarized. To retain the parallel treatment implicit in the format, the editor might have done better to replace the *Instruction* with excerpts from Catherine's decrees on such subjects as monopolies, local government, town planning, colonization, nobles' rights, and schools.

Nevertheless, Professor Dmytryshyn's anthology, for its length and purpose is superior to many, and his conscientious effort to make interesting and worthwhile material on eighteenth-century Russia easily accessible to the students and teachers in European survey courses is most welcome.

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RUSSIA IN WAR AND PEACE. By Alan Palmer. New York: Macmillan, 1972. 224 pp. Illus. \$10.00.

This handsomely illustrated book seems designed for the coffee table. The author aims "to place the events of these momentous years from 1805 to 1814 in their historical context, providing not a commentary on Tolstoy's masterpiece but an introductory survey of the Russia in which he set his greatest work" (p. 9). A topical survey roughly from late Muscovy to the nineteenth century runs for over half the book before arriving at the period of the great novel.

Readers of Mr. Palmer's *Napoleon in Russia* will find the familiar lively and lucid style, but many more illustrations from all possible sources—medals, coins, coats of arms, printed handkerchiefs, portraits, landscapes, caricatures, blockprints, city plans, and the Soviet film version of *War and Peace*. The list of acknowledgments shows the energy and care with which the author assembled these visual aids. Only occasionally are the captions unhelpful, as when a painting from the Mansell collection showing peasants in a barn in various postures of idling is called a typical Russian factory.

The maps are inferior to those in his earlier book on this period: a map on the battle of Austerlitz does not show Lambach, Anstetten, Melk, the Inn River, Hollabrunn, Schöngraben, Wischau or Olmütz—all cited in the text. "Semenouskoe" appears three times in the text. The map for Borodino does not show the positions of the Shevardino redoubt or Barclay's army. There are a number of