

ground of the Slovak immigrants and concludes with a brief sketch of the Slovak national character. Part 2 is concerned with the actual Slovak migration to Canada, in which it discerns three successive waves: (1) the early settlers who came to Canada prior to the First World War, beginning with the first group of Slovaks who moved to Canada from the United States in 1885—they were poorly educated and were almost exclusively farmers, miners, and railway workers; (2) the interwar immigrants (some 34,000), who were also mainly farmers and workers but were already somewhat better educated and politically more conscious; and (3) the Slovaks who came to Canada after the Second World War (some 1,500) as political refugees, most of them well educated and thus qualified from the beginning for white-collar positions. Part 3 is a detailed descriptive survey of the numerous Slovak organizations in Canada—social, fraternal, gymnastic, and religious—and of the various Slovak-language periodicals, almanachs, and other publications. Finally, part 4 purports to show how and to what extent the Slovak immigrants have been integrated into Canadian life and what their contributions have been to Canada's culture, literature, science, arts, and economy. The volume contains also a résumé in French, a documents section, a bibliography of books and articles both on Slovakia and on the Slovaks in Canada, indexes of names and subjects, as well as numerous photographs.

Based on a wealth of sources, including the archives of various Canadian Slovak organizations, the Slovak press in Canada, and interviews with Slovak settlers in many parts of Canada, Kirschbaum's study is a useful contribution to the literature on the Central European immigration to the Western Hemisphere. It is only a pity that the volume is marred by occasional remarks revealing the author's anti-Czech bias and detracting thus from the objectivity promised in the book's preface.

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RUSSIAN LAND, SOVIET PEOPLE: A GEOGRAPHICAL APPROACH TO THE U.S.S.R. By *James S. Gregory*. New York: Pegasus, 1968. 947 pp. \$15.00.

Russian Land, Soviet People, a text of considerable proportions, is in basic format an expansion of an earlier book, *The U.S.S.R.: A Geographical Survey* (1944), by Professor Gregory and D. W. Shave. Like the earlier work, the text is divided into two major parts: a general survey (361 pp.) covering land forms, climate, vegetation, soils, agriculture, and industry, and a regional survey (approximately 500 pp.) following a broad division into some thirteen regions.

The text contains such a vast amount of factual material, essentially of a reference sort, that it is difficult for the reviewer to know what might interest the specialist on the Soviet Union. The logical place to begin most likely is the preface. Here Gregory sets out his objectives, which are "to show how the major factors of environment have influenced and guided the growth of Russia and the U.S.S.R. from prehistoric to Soviet times" and "to help the reader to see the U.S.S.R. as it appears to the intelligent Soviet citizen today, rather than to approach the study of the country and people from a point of view biased by prejudice or a favourable or unfavourable disposition towards the Soviet political system" (p. 5).

The first objective entails an approach more typical of geographical writing in the 1930s than of the present. Still one need not rule out a consideration of the re-

lationship between man and environment; but if one is to include a long chapter on geologic history, one should expect to find some serious attention given to the manner in which Russian or Soviet society has used or misused the natural fundamen- (and there is substantial evidence suggesting that a "socialist" society does not necessarily preclude environmental deterioration).

At any rate, in stressing the geographical factors of isolation in Russian history, Gregory raises the question of why the Soviet Union developed "a personality and way of life so distinct from those of North America—particularly those of the United States, a nation of comparable size, almost completely isolated by the oceans that surround it" (p. 17). He cites several examples of human life and history that contribute to these differences, but finds that there are two major factors of physical geography that could account for them: North America, though "isolated," has two long coastlines that play an important part in the life and economy of the people, and most of the Soviet Union is essentially a northern land. Despite some elaboration by the author, it is not at all clear how from these locational and situational factors there should have developed in Russia "a mystique based on the concept of the strength of the nation as a whole, under God and the Tsar, with a destiny of conquest of the whole plain," nor why "throughout Russian religion and literature" one should find "evidence of the desire for great universal truths and theories . . ." (p. 18).

With respect to his second objective, Gregory really provides no evidence—except for a tribute to a Russian friend and frequent quotations from some Soviet literary sources—that he is presenting a geographical account of the USSR as it appears to the intelligent Soviet citizen today.

Gregory also draws a comparison between the "new united society of Soviet people with common aims and aspirations" and the British Commonwealth, an idea that strongly colors his interpretation of Soviet gains over the past half century or more. Although he has visited the Soviet Union several times, the author does not seem to have grasped the reality of Soviet life and experience and the nature of the dissent that, in literary form or otherwise, has raised its head despite official efforts to suppress it. Does he really believe that the role British traditions and ideas play within the member nations of the Commonwealth is similar to that of "Russian ideology and technology" say in the Georgian SSR or in any of the Baltic republics?

Still, these matters of interpretation do not detract entirely from the value of the book. It may be too large to be adopted as a text, but it will serve as an important source of data for students. Had Gregory not attempted so vast a canvas, he would have produced quite likely a more effective study and one that would have looked more critically at what has taken place within the USSR. And there are problems in Soviet development—apart from politics—which are "earth-spatial" and which are completely overlooked.

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AN ATLAS OF RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN HISTORY. By *Arthur E. Adams, Ian M. Mailey, and William O. McCagg*. New York and Washington: Frederick A. Praeger, 1967. xi, 204 pp. \$6.00.

The only safe generalization about Eastern Europe may be that regional differences there are many and deep, and similarities are exceptional. Yet this slim volume