

GEOGRAPHICAL PERSPECTIVES IN THE SOVIET UNION: A SELECTION OF READINGS. Edited and translated by *George J. Demko* and *Roland J. Fuchs*. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1974. xiv, 742 pp. \$30.00.

Anyone who has been associated with the compiling and editing of geographical materials from Soviet sources, will recognize that preparation of this handsomely-bound volume required a great deal of care, patience, energy, and effort. The book consists of a selection of readings that are valuable not only to the geographer and the economist, but to other students of Soviet affairs as well.

The selection of items for such a collection always poses problems. As Professors Demko and Fuchs note in the preface, the choice was "made more difficult because of the current transitional state of Soviet economic geography, which is being transformed by the adoption of mathematical and statistical techniques. The content of the book reflects this transitional state. . . ." The problem is understandable, but, nonetheless, awkward for the editors.

The geographical discipline in the Soviet Union has lagged almost a decade behind that in the United States, especially in the use of mathematical models and statistical techniques, a "revolution" that hit American geography in the early 1950s. But with the revolution in American geography having pretty much run its course by 1975, it must be assumed that Soviet geography is now at least well through its transitional stage. It is unfortunate, therefore, that the editors could not have chosen some selections from the Soviet field of economic geography dated later than 1967. (The majority of items are dated 1965 or earlier.) The Western scholar, therefore, fails to get a picture of the burgeoning quantitative revolution in Soviet geography from this volume. (In any case, since this reviewer slept through much of the quantitative revolution in American geography, he is in no way equipped to determine—on a scale of one to ten—precisely at what point in transition Soviet economic geography lies.)

Wisely, Professors Demko and Fuchs have selected writings of not only Soviet economic geographers but also of representatives of planning and design agencies and of high party and governmental circles. If nothing else, the balance in the selection reveals the close ties of interest that exist between professional scholars and planners, even though the academician may not have a great deal of influence on high level Soviet decision-making in regard to domestic economic development.

No one will quibble with the nine sections that compose the book: philosophy and methodology, economic regionalization, resource management, agricultural geography, industrial geography, transportation geography, population geography, urban geography, and historical economic geography. Certainly these nine sections cover the purview of Soviet economic geography. Moreover, each section is introduced by a very useful statement provided by the editors.

Soviet agricultural geography often leaves the Western reader with a sense of frustration, mainly, I suppose, because Soviet specialists seldom tell us very much about their methodology, and particularly about the way regional boundaries are drawn. Moreover, the writings often seem excessively academic, incredibly lacking in any kind of dynamic. For example, how does Soviet agriculture truly adjust itself, in a spatial sense, to the continuing economic development of the country, especially of Siberia? One longs for a good Soviet study on the provision of foodstuffs to the city.

The N. N. Kolosovskii article on territorial-production combinations, though translated and published elsewhere in English, is indispensable, and it is well supported by V. G. Varlamov's essay on interregional ties between these combinations or complexes. It is surprising that the section on population geography does not include a major reference to the geography of labor supply, although Zaienchkovskaia and Perevedentsev's article on migration and territorial redistribution of population is useful.

One of the greatest disappointments of this impressive volume is the lack of supporting map materials. There are many graphs, tables, and diagrams, but the lack of maps (there are only two in the entire volume) makes the sections on economic and agricultural regionalization, for example, difficult to follow, even for the specialist. The few minor lapses in transliteration in the footnotes do not detract from the otherwise high quality of the product.

W. A. DOUGLAS JACKSON
University of Washington

SOVIET POLITICS AND SOCIETY IN THE 1970'S. Edited by *Henry W. Morton* and *Rudolf L. Tökés*. Studies of the Russian Institute, Columbia University. New York: The Free Press, 1974. xxvi, 401 pp. \$12.95.

The typical Festschrift, like the typical conference book, is a disaster. In either case, the end product all too often lacks a unifying theme, and is made up of chapters that are little more than hasty rehashes of more careful and extended exercises published elsewhere. Inasmuch as *Soviet Politics and Society in the 1970's*, edited by Henry W. Morton and Rudolf L. Tökés, is both a conference book and a Festschrift in honor of John Hazard, I approached it with some misgivings. Readers of this journal will be pleased to learn that my fears were largely unwarranted. While the quality of the pieces varies, and some lack of focus does exist, the authors *kollektiv* headed by Messrs. Morton and Tökés has, in fact, produced a book with a central theme—the overall responsiveness and adaptiveness of the Soviet political system when confronted with social change. The book contains contributions which are addressed to politics and social change, including Tökés on dissent, Grey Hodnett on cotton politics in Soviet Central Asia, and Barbara Jancar on women in Soviet politics. There are articles on social welfare policies: Morton on the Soviet housing crisis, Peter Juviler on crime, David Cattell on welfare planning, and Theodore Friedgut on political participation in local soviets. And, finally, the generalizability of the Soviet model is discussed: David Albright on the USSR and the third world, Paul Shoup on the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, and William Taubman on the Soviet Union and the literature on political development.

Moreover, it is a book which lies in the mainstream of contemporary political science. Several of the articles are of interest to social scientists who have only a marginal interest in the USSR per se. This is an important point, because prospective readers with social science interests should be urged to disregard both Professor Tökés's observation in the introduction that "the editors and the contributors have, on the whole, been rather underwhelmed by the results and remain somewhat skeptical about the so-called 'behavioral revolution' in political science," and his criticism of "semantic, culture bound neologisms and intellectually barren