

from life—one who can therefore, like Ekaterina Olitskaia, look back on the past with ataraxia, with a truly admirable detachment, and without having lost all faith in humanity.

VALDO ZILLI

Istituto Universitario Orientale, Naples

STALIN AND HIS TIMES. By *Arthur E. Adams*. Berkshire Studies in History. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1972. x, 243 pp. Paper.

The Berkshire series of short studies in European history is now being read by a third generation of students, which is a remarkable achievement for any textbook, and particularly noteworthy considering that the series has never been noted for gimmicks or even liveliness in presentation. At its best it has represented scholarly synthesis in condensed, balanced, and sober form, keeping close to the middle of the road in matters of interpretation. Arthur E. Adams's addition to the series is worthy of the best in this tradition. It is based on a wide reading of the scholarship in the field, skillfully summarized in businesslike prose. Its point of view seems to be moderate-liberal, and in interpretation it aims at summarizing established ideas about Stalin and his times, rather than attempting to introduce new points of view. The opening of the book sets the scene in the first decade of Soviet power, followed by discussion of the period of rapid industrialization and collectivization and the period of the purges. Here Adams emphasizes domestic affairs, while the two subsequent sections of the book, on the Second World War and the postwar Stalin years, deal fairly heavily in foreign policy. A short conclusion summarizes the achievements of Stalin in modernization and sets this against the heavy human cost.

Adams's interpretative perspective, while not pro-Soviet, is hardly undiluted cold war. He tends to accept Stalinism as a necessary evil in the process of modernization and he considers Western responses to the USSR in the early postwar years "probably panicky and premature." Nevertheless, one sometimes has the feeling that this book is a contemporary work of some of the considerably older works in the Berkshire series. The revisionist and antirevisionist debate on American policy toward the Soviet Union since 1941 is substantially ignored, and the few lines on Stalin's policy toward China suggest that there is no major problem here. In the same sense one might mention that the treatment of the thirties accepts the Five-Year Plans as the fundamental basis for periodization, and Carl Friedrich's conception of totalitarianism is presented as having "stood the test of time with slight changes." But such questions of interpretation do not detract from the clarity and solidity of *Stalin and His Times*.

ROBERT H. MCNEAL

University of Massachusetts at Amherst

THE WINTER WAR: THE RUSSO-FINNISH CONFLICT, 1939–40. By *Eloise Engle* and *Lauri Paananen*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1973. xv, 176 pp. \$7.95.

The authors write that Finland's stand against the Soviet Union during the Winter War must remain among the most stirring in history (p. 148), and they have been able through well-written prose to communicate the dramatic quality

of the unequal struggle between the Finnish lion and the Russian bear. One comes away from this short book with a feeling of admiration for the bravery and fortitude of a nation whose people were able for so long to beat back Soviet tanks with little more than Molotov cocktails and submachine guns.

One should bear in mind that the authors make no attempt to approach the Winter War in scholarly fashion. The book is an account for the general reader with little or no knowledge of Finnish affairs. Offhand comments in the introduction (pp. xi-xv) about Finnish independence, terrorists, communism, and Finland's "deep and seething" hatred for Russia will surely be questioned by scholars. Academics will no doubt also raise eyebrows when they read, for example, that Finnish leftist workers and peasants might well have supported the Russians had they chosen the early 1930s to attack (p. 33). When one considers that Mannerheim's White forces in the Civil War of 1918 were called the "peasant army" (*talonpoikaissarmeija*), that a right-extremist movement in the early 1930s drew heavily upon farmers for support, and that leftist workers were splitting off from the Communist Party in 1929-30, one wonders how much the authors know about Finnish history and politics.

The affluent general reader who is interested in either a slice of Finnish history or a good war story with heroic deeds may want to include this book on his or her leisure reading list.

JOHN H. HODGSON
Syracuse University

POOR COUSINS. By *Ande Manners*. New York: Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, 1972. 318 pp. \$8.95.

The dramatic recent upsurge of concern for the fate of Soviet Jews and the simultaneous reawakening among America's ethnic groups to their European heritage have not unexpectedly resulted in the publication of a number of popular books dealing with the early phase of immigration to the United States of Russia's Jews. Most of this country's five and a half million Jews are of East European origin, although the first Jewish settlers were of Spanish and Portuguese ancestry, while the second wave of immigration was predominantly German. The first, the Sephardim, came to colonial America, and are thus the "aristocracy" of America's Jewry. The Germans, who arrived in significant numbers in the middle of the nineteenth century, particularly after 1848, soon became successful merchants and began to enter the professions. The East Europeans, mostly from Russia, Poland, and Rumania, began to arrive en masse during the last two decades of the century, when the relatively benevolent reign of Alexander II came to an end and the era of anti-Semitic pogroms began. Penniless, unable to speak English, and with few professional skills, these East European Jews were viewed by their already wealthy, socially prominent, and Americanized coreligionists with a mixture of compassion and contempt. They were, indeed, the "poor cousins."

Mrs. Manners's book is a chatty, occasionally interesting account of the beginnings of acculturation of these immigrants, full of anecdotes (mostly venerable ones), scattered statistics, and unexpected generalizations, many of them quite unsupported by available evidence. The few attempts at providing some historical background are, as a rule, singularly unreliable. Thus, on page 16, we are told that "as a result of the various [?] partitions of Poland, Russia acquired 5,000,000