

references are given to the important literature on subjects treated in the articles. And yet every orderly encyclopedic treatment of a branch of science would certainly take care to supply that kind of information. One may even say that a careful selection of basic reference works should be the first duty of authors preparing entries for an encyclopedia. Furthermore, because of the characteristics of the Soviet legal system, individual contributions should have included references to both Soviet and Western works. Scientific disciplines maintain a high position in the world of knowledge by relating scholarly efforts in any given area to what others have done in the same area. Unfortunately, Western experts on Soviet law too frequently ignore this obligation to the reading public and students of Soviet affairs.

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THE SOCIALIST ECONOMIES OF THE SOVIET UNION AND EUROPE.

By *Marie Lavigne*. Translated by *T. G. Waywell*. White Plains, N.Y.: International Arts and Sciences Press, 1974. xvii, 396 pp. \$20.00.

The original French edition of this volume appeared in 1970. For the purpose of this English translation, the author has apparently revised the material and carried the analysis through 1972–73. The book is a highly ambitious work whose appearance should be welcomed by students of Soviet-type economies.

The main strength of the volume lies not so much in any originality of interpretation as in the very systematic and thoroughgoing manner in which Lavigne treats the major institutional characteristics and operating mechanisms of these economies. The comprehensive nature of the volume is indicated by the principal topics discussed: enterprise management, macroeconomic planning methods, strategies of economic development, price formation, the wage system, money and banking, economic relations among Comecon countries, and economic relations between Comecon countries and the nonsocialist world. There is also a discussion of the “convergence thesis” toward which Lavigne adopts a critical stance (“the theory of technological convergence confuses industrial structures and economic systems”).

Throughout the volume, the focus is on the functioning of the Soviet economy, with material on other East European countries being introduced chiefly to illustrate the extent of diversity prevailing within a common “socialist” framework. Lavigne accepts the “socialist” designation as an appropriate one for all these economies. If this is to be regarded as a matter of substance—as Lavigne apparently does—the issue requires a more convincing argument than the author provides.

Another positive feature of this work is the manner in which Lavigne’s review of theoretical discussions by Soviet economists on such subjects as price formation, economic growth, and investment efficiency serves as a backdrop for her own discussion of Soviet practices and changing policies in these areas. Although Soviet Marxism can hardly be said to have encouraged bold theorizing in any of the social sciences, Lavigne’s review of the principal Soviet economic discussions of the last two decades makes it clear that there has been some opportunity for serious theoretical speculation in Soviet economic literature. It may be too much to expect in one volume, but it is unfortunate that Lavigne does not provide a comparable review of the East European literature.

One limitation of the work is that it is confined almost exclusively to the strictly economic aspects of Soviet and East European societies. This may seem like a strange and unjustified criticism of a book whose explicit concern is with the "Socialist Economies of the Soviet Union and Europe." But it is precisely because of the ambitious nature of this undertaking that the criticism seems worth offering. Any attempt to describe and analyze the workings of an economic "system" as a whole—especially a nonmarket system in most of its variants—requires some identification of the political structures and social groups directing the operation of the economy. I am not suggesting that Lavigne's book would have gained from a simple recitation of familiar facts about Party and State. A study of the "political economy" of socialist societies does require, however, the readiness to draw on a variety of social science disciplines.

Finally, American readers should be challenged by Lavigne's comparatively positive evaluation of socialist foreign aid policies, as well as her argument that the frequently inefficient use of labor in socialist societies "is of secondary importance" when seen in the perspective of the achievement of "the right to work"—except in Yugoslavia.

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THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY: ESSAYS IN THE SOCIOLOGY OF POLITICS. By *Feliks Gross*. Westport, Conn. and London: Greenwood Press, 1974. xx, 280 pp. \$13.95.

In this book Professor Gross has brought together several previously published pieces on such diverse subjects as political assassinations, dress, rituals and political mythmaking, the sociology of international relations, and underground movements. He fits the material into a framework of three introductory chapters: early concepts of the political party, the origins of the centralistic and revolutionary party, and, finally, the dynamics of a political party.

No other author has successfully encompassed such a diversity of political groups, and I am afraid that Professor Gross has not advanced the cause of a general theory of parties much either. He is very sensitive to the interdependence of such variables as ideology, the socioeconomic environment, the party structure, and its strategies and tactics, but he tends not to get very far beyond the fact of interdependence. What one wants to know is how ideology affects structure, how tactics affect ideology, and so on. What we get instead are classificatory schemes: types of political parties, types of underground movements, kinds of political assassination, and ultimately a checklist of all of the things one might look at in studying a political movement. Given the complexity of politics, it is the analyst's task to begin paring down the explanatory variables, a task made necessary by the scope of the phenomena to be explained.

More useful are the author's analyses of specific types of political action such as underground movements and political assassination. The essay on underground movements draws heavily on Polish and Eastern European experience, particularly during the war. But again Professor Gross tends to overexpand the discussion—including such (once) topical subjects as the "underground" movement in the United States during the 1960s, which, as he points out, was under-