

ever, his embassy was not the main channel for top-level communication between the two powers, for Nixon and Kissinger preferred to go through Ambassador Dobrynin in Washington.

The book is marred by occasional signs of editorial carelessness, and for some reason many Russian names are transliterated in Polish or Yugoslav forms.

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THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY IN TRANSITION: PCF-CPSU RELATIONS AND THE CHALLENGE TO SOVIET AUTHORITY. By *Annette Eisenberg Stiefbold*. New York and London: Praeger Publishers, 1977. xii, 155 pp.

The term "Eurocommunism" has come to signify the collective identity of certain West European Communist parties in asserting their independence from Soviet authority. Of critical importance in the Eurocommunist phenomenon have been the efforts of the French, Italian, and Spanish Communist parties to disavow the limited parameters of Soviet orthodoxy in order to develop more useful lines of revolutionary strategy for their own political settings. Within this collective identity, however, there are significant areas of diversity. Only by grasping the unique identity of each party in the Eurocommunist movement can one begin to appreciate fully the complex forces currently at work in international communism. Annette Stiefbold's study provides a superb examination of the uniqueness of French Communist revolutionary strategy as one specific component of the Eurocommunist challenge to Soviet authority.

The evolution of the revolutionary strategy of the PCF spans more than a decade. Specifically, the strategy is designed to establish a regime of "advanced democracy" as a transitional stage toward the realization of "socialism in the colors of France." Starting from what the author terms the "watershed year" of 1968, she shows that, in elaborating its revolutionary strategy, PCF statements have presented an increasing challenge to Soviet teachings on both the political role of Communist parties in left alliances and the political foundations of socialist society. Moreover, the author points out that, in addition to its ideological challenge to Soviet authority, PCF revolutionary strategy has raised another important issue in PCF-CPSU relations. To the extent that the PCF model of advanced democracy is expressly designed to lead France to socialism, the PCF has expressed considerable concern that Communist revolutionary interests in France not be compromised by Soviet-American superpower diplomacy as it relates to the political foundations of détente. It is in this overall framework, which includes the PCF position on the relationship between peaceful coexistence and the class struggle, that the author examines the Berlin Conference of European Communist Parties in 1976, both with respect to PCF-CPSU relations and as regards the attitude of the PCF toward regional solidarity with other West European Communist parties.

Present research is faced with a formidable task in analyzing the complex basis of the Eurocommunist challenge to Soviet authority. Annette Stiefbold's work, however, has enormously advanced our understanding of the role of PCF-CPSU relations in this challenge. She offers a well-organized and penetrating analysis of PCF-CPSU relations over the past decade.

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