

the events, they find it difficult to draw conclusions, and therefore confine themselves to a few speculations. The volume does not pursue any particular problems or thesis. Each author has defined his subject and worked independently. The result is a loosely organized summary of Soviet attitudes and policies toward the Third World, useful primarily for the classroom.

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SOVIET-ASIAN RELATIONS. By *Charles B. McLane*. Volume 2 of SOVIET-THIRD WORLD RELATIONS. London: Central Asian Research Centre, 1973. 150 pp. \$15.00. Distributed by Columbia University Press, New York.

This book is really the skeletal framework of a forthcoming major work. The author's stated purpose is to provide regional specialists "with the *record*" (author's italics) of Soviet political, economic, military, and cultural ties with the fourteen non-Communist and underdeveloped countries of Asia, such as India, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Burma, and Thailand. Each of the sections consists of a brief history of bilateral ties, a threefold chronology divided into political, economic, and cultural interactions, footnotes, and short bibliographies. However, the information falls far short of serving the research needs of the specialist.

Omissions and lack of differentiation detract from the volume's value as a reference work. For example, the specific dates of visits or treaties are not given, only the month and year. Thus the researcher has to spend time tracking down the precise date if he wishes to compare, let us say, *Pravda's* treatment of an event with that of key newspapers in the Third World country concerned.

As in volume 1 of this series, which deals with Soviet-Middle East relations, the data are incomplete: many visits and protocols, albeit generally of minor importance, are missed. Thus in the chronology for December 1968 the author lists the Soviet-Indian protocol on aid but neglects the trade protocol, signed the same month. One possible reason for these oversights is the heavy reliance on Soviet sources. Any authoritative record of the interaction of events between the Soviet Union and a Third World country *requires* that the latter's sources be examined as carefully as the former's. Failing this, the book cannot satisfy the needs of specialists or students of international relations who engage in data analysis of events.

The lack of differentiation and the meagerness of detail are puzzling. Professor McLane is too much of a professional to believe the hoary myth that facts speak for themselves, though he seems to have prepared his chronologies on that assumption. Visits are listed with no hint of their relative importance, no mention of whether joint communiqués were issued (an important clue), no identification of the substantive results. A cruiser putting into Bombay (military developments are included in the political section) receives the same attention as Gromyko's visit to New Delhi to sign a treaty, and a trade pact the same as a conference of religious leaders.

This is a thin book in more ways than one.

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