

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.

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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*.

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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