

study enable him to present readers with a work worthy of the attention of all students interested in the history of Eastern Europe and in that period in particular. The facts brought out describing the Polish endeavors to make Moscow fulfill its obligations, as specified in the Treaty of Andrusovo, show that Russia has not changed her habit of breaking promises. The same could be said about the hostile Muscovite attitude toward foreigners, which has been retained to the present time despite the revolutionary changes in Russia's political system.

The work is a valuable contribution to the history of Eastern Europe because it throws more light on the behind-the-scenes activity of the contemporary diplomacy connected with the partition of the Ukraine and the expansion of Muscovy into the Black Sea region.

Although the author analyzes original documents and quotes them sometimes at great length, the book is so well organized that it can be read with as much pleasure as a novel. There is, however, some confusion in the transliteration of Russian and Ukrainian names. The use of the term "Russia" or "Russian" for this period is also historically incorrect, especially in paraphrasing original sources, where they always appear as "moskovskii" or "Moskovskoye Tsarstvo." The name "Russia" was introduced officially to replace Muscovite tsardom almost half a century later by Peter I.

Another shortcoming of this book is the lack of a bibliography, although there is an ample number of bibliographical footnotes. The work also contains a brief summary in English and a personal name index. Considering the scholarly value of this study, it is rather surprising that it was published as a limited edition of 490 copies only—hardly enough to meet the demands even of the specialists for whom it is primarily designed. It is also worth mentioning that Zbigniew Wójcik is already known as the author of other historical studies entitled *Dzikię pola w ogniu* and *Traktat Andruszowski, 1667*, which are recognized as objective scholarly works. The first deals with Polish-Ukrainian relations in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and the second with Polish-Russian-Ukrainian relations in the same period.

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THE TRAGIC DYNASTY: A HISTORY OF THE ROMANOV. By *John D. Bergamini*. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1969. 512 pp. \$10.00.

Recently there has been a flood of books dealing with the Romanovs, including even two independent (and inadequate) translations of the third volume of Kliuchevsky's *Course*. Among them Bergamini's is one of the most tantalizing. The opening introductory chapters evince some understanding, though at third hand, of the main lines of Russian development in the period when the Romanovs were only boyars. Once he has them enthroned as tsars, however, Bergamini loses interest in Russian history and shifts to a series of bare biographical sketches, to each of which, regardless of the degree of its importance, a chapter is devoted. Borrowings from works he had earlier relied on become increasingly rare (and generally without quotation marks). The references given are, with the exception of three books in French (from which Bergamini has made his own translations), exclusively to books in English; most of them are from the antiquated biographies of Bain, from a variety of would-be shockers, or from other inferior works.

Bergamini is well aware that the last male Romanov died in 1730 and the last daughter of a Romanov on Christmas Day 1761 (O.S.). He remarks that Catherine I was "a ruler with no Romanov blood," that Ivan VI (the baby who "ruled" Russia for just over a month) was "a Romanov who had only one-quarter Russian blood [*sic*]," that Peter III was "mostly German and Swedish but a true [*sic*] Romanov," and that Catherine II was "neither Romanov nor even Russian." Yet, rejecting Catherine's own account of her son's paternity, Bergamini follows the widespread practice of accounting Paul and his descendants, the House of Schleswig-Holstein-Gottorp, as also true Romanovs. Had he not done so, of course, he would have had to sacrifice more than half his book and the juiciest part at that.

If the title is misleading as regards the "dynasty," it is no less so with respect to the "tragic." Not that there was no tragedy connected with this dynasty. A writer in quest of tragedy need have looked no farther than the relations of Peter with his son Alexis, tragic for the father no less than for the son, but Bergamini so presents the story that it shrinks to the proportions of a shabby, even sordid, melodrama. Only when he reaches Peter III does Bergamini emphasize that he was "the tragic successor to his Aunt Elizabeth" and proceeds to treat the reader to a slapstick tragicomedy, changing his tune to "Peter's real tragedy probably dated from his smallpox." His next candidate for honors is "the tragic Paul I," contrasted to his "enigmatic" son Alexander I. In the end it turns out that Nicholas II's uncritical admiration of his father "may have been the ultimate tragedy of the dynasty," though Rasputin's "two-facedness is really the whole root of the Romanov tragedy" and the fact "that the intellectual upsurge [before 1914] escaped Nicholas II is part of his tragedy." In short, it was not "The Tragic Dynasty" but the tragic Nicholas.

Serious omissions include failure to clothe the bones of the old-fashioned notion that Peter I "thoroughly reordered the government, the church, the economy, and the social system," scarcely compensated by a chapter beginning "Catherine's outrageous sex life is the main basis of her legendary status and worldwide fame" (p. 227), more than one-third of which is devoted to a painstaking catalogue of over a score of her "lovers." Peter III's release of the nobility from service is called "a landmark in Russian social history" but is deemed less worthy of comment than the fact that Catherine, in pursuit of her fallen husband, "wore a broad-brimmed hat, her hair was tied in a single ribbon, and she was all green and red in the uniform of the Preobrazhenskoe" (p. 224). Nicholas I is dismissed in antiquated conventional terms, but with confusion of pudding and pie.

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FEEDING THE RUSSIAN FUR TRADE: PROVISIONMENT OF THE OKHOTSK SEABOARD AND THE KAMCHATKA PENINSULA, 1639-1856. By *James R. Gibson*. Madison, Milwaukee, and London: University of Wisconsin Press, 1969. xix, 337 pp. \$15.00.

In the world-wide saga of European expansion and settlement, few chapters tell a story of greater difficulty than that of the Russian colonization of Siberia. Outstanding for hardship and problems was the establishment of the Russians on the Far Eastern coasts, around the Sea of Okhotsk and on the Kamchatka Peninsula. Mr. Gibson gives the account of the original Russian settlement, spurred on by the