

form of their service in the provincial administration. The form chosen—elected representatives dependent on bureaucratic appointees—suggests the need for some qualification of the word “emancipation” in the title. To seek, as Jones does, to elucidate the “why” rather than the “what” of Catherine’s policies is an important approach that will yet engage many scholars. The definition of Catherine’s perception of state interest will require the assimilation of vast quantities of material, the character and context of which must be thoroughly and critically discussed. Rather than making a selective survey of these materials, Jones could have provided a focused and fruitful contribution to the question by submitting to rigorous analysis either the twelve hundred pages of worksheets he saw on the provincial reform of 1775 or the preparatory materials for the Charter of 1785, as a means of elucidating the dilemmas and choices before the empress in formulating policy with regard to the nobility. It seems also that resolution of the many complex issues reviewed by Jones will depend largely on comprehensive study of the Russian bureaucracy in the eighteenth century. Given the extent of the literature on these issues, his own contribution would have benefited from a more complete account of how his source materials, methods, and results differ from the work of his predecessors and contemporaries, particularly that of M. P. Pavlova-Silvanskaia on the provincial reform.

JOAN AFFERICA
Smith College

EMPEROR OF THE COSSACKS: PUGACHEV AND THE FRONTIER
JACQUERIE OF 1773–1775. By *John T. Alexander*. Lawrence, Kans.: Corono-
nado Press, 1973. 245 pp. \$8.50.

Despite the book’s title, Professor Alexander has written what amounts to a chronological narrative of the military events encompassing the Pugachevshchina rather than a biography of the instigator of the rebellion. As such, the work represents the obverse side of the author’s *Autocratic Policies in a National Crisis* (1969). The portrait of the protagonist tends to suffer because of this approach. Pugachev’s frame of reference is especially indistinct. What precisely (if anything) did he have in mind when he promised his followers freedom (*vol’nost’*)? Were his political concepts modern or traditional? Was his wrath directed against the state, the nobility and serfdom per se (pp. 216–17), or simply against the excesses inflicted by these institutions (as Raeff and Pascal argue)? His claim to be Peter III, his solicitation for his “son” Pavel Petrovich, his practice of surrounding himself with a court of bogus ministers, and the contriteness with which he accepted his punishment would seem to reveal his inability to emancipate himself from more traditional ideas of rulership. For further study of Pugachev’s mental attitudes the reader will want to consult Dorothea Peters’s *Politische und gesellschaftliche Vorstellungen in der Aufstandsbewegung unter Pugačev (1773–1775)*, volume 17 of *Forschungen zur osteuropäischen Geschichte* (1973).

The author concludes with an attempt to introduce a comparative historical perspective, based on current social science categories and terminology. His decision that the uprising belongs to the genre “frontier jacqueries” does not strike one as particularly appropriate, perhaps because the typology employed is the creation of Western scholars, and reflects Western experience.

On the positive side, the book is pleasantly written, and despite its narrow focus, readers will turn to it as a convenient English-language account of the rebellion.

DAVID M. GRIFFITHS

University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

DE LA RUSSIE À L'U.R.S.S.: L'HISTOIRE DE LA RUSSIE DE 1850 À NOS JOURS. By *René Girault* and *Marc Ferro*. Paris: Éditions Fernand Nathan, 1974. 222 pp. 28 F., paper.

This brief survey of Russian history from the mid-nineteenth century to the present consists of three parts. Part 1 examines Russian society on the eve of the Great Reforms, the nature of these reforms, and their immediate and long-term impact on Russian society. Part 2 reviews the main events leading to the Revolution of 1917, the Civil War, foreign intervention, and the situation that culminated in the rise of Stalin. Part 3 analyzes the results and the price the Soviet people paid for industrialization and collectivization, the various aspects of Stalin's dictatorship, and the changes in the USSR since Stalin's death.

Obviously this is not an exhaustive work, nor was it written for the specialist. It is, however, clear and informative in stating its main thesis, which argues that Russia experienced no great gloom before the October Revolution (as claimed by the critics of the tsarist regime) and, conversely, that she has enjoyed no rosy situation since the Bolshevik seizure of power in 1917 (as contended by the admirers of the Soviet experiment). This theme is not new. It is, however, well argued here, and also well documented.

Although sound, the work is not without shortcomings. The most glaring is the failure to examine various aspects of foreign policy of Imperial Russia as well as of the Soviet Union. This omission is unfortunate, because it not only creates an imbalance in an otherwise well-organized work but it fails to take note of the influence foreign policy has historically exerted on domestic events and vice versa.

The volume has also several factual errors. On page 168, GPU is translated as "gosoudarstvenny politichesky ouezd." It should be "gosudarstvennoe politicheskoe upravlenie." Likewise, in a chart on page 169 Brezhnev is listed as having reached the topmost plateau of the party structure in 1956. Actually he became an alternate delegate to the Presidium at the Nineteenth Party Congress in October 1952. These errors are minor and should not distract the reader from a sound work.

BASIL DMYTRYSHYN

Portland State University

ALEKSANDER HERCEN. By *Wiktoria* and *René Sliwowski*. *Ludzie Żywi*, vol. 27. Warsaw: Państwowy Instytut Wydawniczy, 1973. 670 pp. 70 zł.

The present study is the result of the cooperative effort of an extraordinary husband and wife team, he a literary scholar and she a historian, both already well known in Poland and abroad for the high quality of their scholarly publications.

With regard to Herzen the Sliwowskis have done yeoman's service in more ways than one. Theirs is the first study of his entire life and work to appear in any