

One caveat might be added to Quigley's prescription for improvement. While institutional reform is necessary for the Soviet foreign trade monopoly to reduce its inefficiency, institutional reform is not, by itself, sufficient to accomplish that purpose. The personnel administering the system must be receptive to and capable of improving it; otherwise, institutional reforms are useless. The foreign trade monopoly of Hungary can be used as an example. It is generally acknowledged that Hungary's system functions more efficiently than that of the other Soviet bloc nations, not only because of institutional reforms (which are to some extent present in the other systems), but also because of the high degree of professionalism of the Hungarian personnel.

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THE SOVIET ENERGY BALANCE: NATURAL GAS, OTHER FOSSIL FUELS, AND ALTERNATIVE POWER SOURCES. By *Iain F. Elliot*. Praeger Special Studies in International Economics and Development. New York: Praeger Publishers, 1974. xv, 277 pp. \$18.50.

The purpose of Mr. Elliot's book is to provide current information on Soviet energy resources with an eye to evaluating export potential. A great deal of data on reserves and output is provided in separate chapters on the main fuels—gas, coal, and oil. There are much briefer surveys on peat, oil shale, and exotic sources, and a chapter each on the electric power industry and fuel policy in general. The book, starkly recitative in approach, is not in any way problem-oriented or shaped by the analytical tools of related disciplines—whether engineering, geology, economics, or geography. Elliot's book is perhaps best described as an up-to-date version of a 1961 work on Soviet fuel resources by J. A. Hodgkins, *Soviet Power: Energy Resources, Production and Potential*.

As a collection of data and a survey of major themes, this will be a useful handbook for anyone wanting a quick introduction to Soviet energy resources. With very minor exceptions the assertions and data are reliable, though this is partly because Elliot seldom ventures into evaluation or detailed interpretation. Indeed, it gives an impression of straightforward simplicity in Soviet fuel and energy policy that is somewhat misleading. Policy toward the individual fuel industries (and Soviet fuel policy as a whole) involves complexities and controversies which are simply ignored here. The Soviet "energy balance" is dealt with mainly in the sense of the composition of output, with little attention given to the consumption side, the various transformation processes involved, or to policy and planning. For information on these matters, the reader will soon want to move beyond this book to other sources.

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