

Cochrane has delved into the meager body of material on Nechaev's childhood and early adolescence and has made better use of it than did Venturi, for example. That he was not able to see some of the inconsistencies in the data and is probably slightly wrong about Nechaev's age at certain important junctures is not crucial, since the contribution of the dissertation lies more in the textual analysis of later works than in its analysis of Nechaev's personality. There is one error that is worth noting. Cochrane's interpretation of Nechaev's sister's memoirs leads him to state that Nechaev had worked as a messenger boy in a textile factory for only a week in 1856 or 1857, but the memoirs do not really permit a reader to infer a precise time span, and other evidence suggests that Nechaev was older than nine or ten when he left the factory. More generally, Cochrane is at his shakiest when he tries to derive psychological conclusions from the data. I was puzzled by the assertion that Nechaev had "an essentially happy although psychologically abnormal childhood due to his mother's death and father's absence" (p. 15).

When dealing with the year 1869 and Nechaev's relationships with Ogarev and Bakunin, Cochrane is usually accurate and on solid ground. His careful and sensitive scrutiny of the style and substance of Nechaev's, Ogarev's, and Bakunin's writings surpasses most previous scholarship. Aside from his excellent study of the "Catechism of a Revolutionary" and other documents attributed to Nechaev, Bakunin, or to their collaboration, Cochrane has carefully reviewed Ogarev's frequently neglected contribution. The ephemeral character of most of the proclamations associated with Nechaev's career was responsible for much scholarly neglect, but the tendency of Bakunin and Ogarev scholars (there are very few Nechaev scholars as such) to minimize the roles of the older men surely explains many of the errors in recent scholarship. Cochrane has helped to set the historical record straight. On the other hand, his evaluation of Venturi's chapter on Nechaev in *Roots of Revolution*—that it does not "crystallize" Nechaev's personality for the reader—holds true, at least for this reader, for Cochrane's own treatment of Nechaev.

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COLD SPRING IN RUSSIA. By *Olga Chernov Andreyev*. Foreword by *Arthur Miller*. Translated by *Michael Carlisle*. Ann Arbor: Ardis, 1978. x, 283 pp. + 6 pp. photographs. \$13.95, cloth. \$6.95, paper.

This memoir by the adopted daughter of the prominent Socialist Revolutionary, Victor Chernov, is a sad book. Its pages are premeated with a sense of suffering and tragedy. The author's happy childhood memories of life in France and Italy—a period over which later events cast a shadow that is clearly discernible in the narrative—provide a sharp contrast to the wretchedness of the family's existence upon their return to Russia in 1917. The euphoria of the tsar's fall quickly turned into despair as the Bolsheviks pushed the Provisional Government from power, dispersed the Constituent Assembly, and suppressed their political opponents. Olga Andreyev vividly portrays the plight of a family who not only had to struggle to eat and keep warm in the chaotic aftermath of October, but who also constantly had to hide their identity from the Cheka. The overwhelming sense of tragedy is lightened to some extent by the author's portrayal of the strength of the bond which united the Chernov family and enabled them to overcome all the trials that confronted them—their frequent separation, incarceration by Soviet authorities, and the omnipresent struggle to survive. Nevertheless, it is the tragedy of the situation that is the book's strongest theme, the tragedy of the impact of great historical events on the lives of ordinary people.

The only major shortcoming of this very readable book is its presentation. More careful checking of the text and of the picture captions would have prevented a number of needless mistakes.

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WITH TROTSKY IN EXILE: FROM PRINKIPO TO COYOACÁN. By *Jean van Heijenoort*. Cambridge, Mass. and London: Harvard University Press, 1978. xii, 164 pp. Photographs. \$12.50.

This slim, extremely modest addition to the literature on Trotsky is written by a person who, in the 1930s, served Trotsky for seven years as secretary, translator, and bodyguard. The book contains a brief foreword and afterword, sections on Prinkipo, France, Norway, and Coyoacán, and a ten-page "Appendix: Correction of Errors in Writings About Trotsky." The appendix attacks "errors" in works appearing between 1935 and 1977, which were written by such people as Isaac Deutscher, André Malraux, and Natalia Sedova (Trotsky). The best part of the book is the thirty-six photographs that are included.

The relative scholarly uselessness of the book is a by-product of the author's goals. Expressly avoiding "a critical examination of the personality of Leon Trotsky, of his ideas or his character," van Heijenoort aims instead "to recreate the atmosphere in which Trotsky lived and worked during his years of exile," to amass "bits of information" that may help a scholar "uncover a fact or identify a document," and "to correct errors in the writings about Trotsky over the years" (pp. v and vi).

Although the "atmosphere" that van Heijenoort re-creates is interesting, it does not add to our historical understanding of Trotsky. The errors which he notes are relatively insignificant and often petty: "in the photograph caption, change 'at Barbizon in November 1933' to 'in Saint-Palais in August 1933,'" or "in the caption for the picture on page 133, change '1933' to 'August 1933,'" and in a third, "[In Barbizon, Trotsky] shaved off his thick, grey goatee, so as to look like a middle-class French intellectual." Actually, Trotsky shaved his goatee in Saint-Palais, on October 9 . . ." (pp. 152 and 156). The appendix further weakens the book.

Consequently, *With Trotsky in Exile* can be recommended only to the most highly specialized research libraries.

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LEONID ILYICH BREZHNEV: A SHORT BIOGRAPHY. By the *Institute of Marxism-Leninism, CPSU Central Committee*. Leaders of the World Biographical Series. New York: Pergamon Press, 1977. xiv, 240 pp. Photographs. \$10.00.

LEONID I. BREZHNEV: PAGES FROM HIS LIFE. Written under the auspices of the *Academy of Sciences of the USSR*. Foreword by *Leonid I. Brezhnev*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1978. 320 pp. + 40 pp. plates. \$11.95.

These two books represent the ascendancy of Brezhnev's personal status in the USSR and the popularity of détente. The outburst of media events connected with his seventieth birthday in 1976 included the preparation of an official biography for the Soviet populace, which now appears in English, not with the imprint of Progress Publishers in Moscow, but from the private sector in Great Britain, Pergamon Press. Somewhat earlier this publisher had announced the intended publication of a collection of the writings of Brezhnev, with a biographical introduction, but as far as I can determine, that project was cancelled, not a surprising decision in view of the audience appeal