

ing that the German army did not form a "state within the state," because Groener and Schleicher cooperated with the Foreign Office (pp. 96–97). No one can deny that there was a change in the army's attitude in the post-Seeckt period, but the generals continued to pursue their own political objectives, and the army as a whole remained carefully isolated from the general political life of the nation. During the years of crisis after 1930 the army once more became the dominant power in internal politics. Can it really be maintained that the army ceased to be a "state within the state" because its aims for a short time and up to a point coincided with those of the government? If Groener and Schleicher tried to abate the hostility of the officer corps toward the republic, did they really succeed? These questions the author unfortunately does not answer. What he has written is a competent study of a very intricate subject—a rather theoretical study, describing a multitude of schemes, operational plans, and war games which had no chance of ever being realized.

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DIKTIERTE OPTION: DIE UMSIEDLUNG DER DEUTSCH-BALTEN AUS ESTLAND UND LETTLAND, 1939–1941. Compiled by *Dietrich A. Loeber*. Sonderforschungsbereich "Skandinavien- und Ostseeraumforschung" an der Universität Kiel. Neumünster: Karl Wachholtz Verlag, 1972. 60 + 787 pp. DM 96, paper.

Professor Loeber documents the repatriation to Germany of the German minorities from their ancient homelands in Estonia and Latvia, which they had colonized and dominated for seven centuries. Ordered by Hitler in the fall of 1939, the repatriation was voluntary; but the fear of an impending Soviet occupation and the pressures from Berlin induced almost all the Germans to leave, although frequently their withdrawal was very reluctant—except in 1941, when both Estonia and Latvia, as well as Lithuania, were already overrun by the Red Army.

In a scrupulously documented introductory essay, aided by seven hundred pages of German, Estonian, Latvian, and Soviet government documents, press reports, and memoirs, Loeber succinctly explains what he calls the "imperialist," "racist," and "totalitarian" nature of the Nazi repatriation policies. The reprinted documents also shed light on Soviet-German relations in 1939–40 and on the prospective Nazi colonization policies in Poland and, interestingly enough, in Lithuania. Loeber shows particular concern for the fate of repatriates as human beings who first became pawns of the Nazi government and then received frequently unfair treatment from various authorities after World War II.

Diktierte Option is a voluminous and expensive book and on the surface promises a reading about as interesting as a lawyer's brief. But this appearance is deceptive. The narration records high human and historical drama; it depicts Germany's losses suffered in the Baltic region in this latest round of the thousand-year struggle between the Teutons and the Slavs. In this historical perspective, the omission by the editor of the story of the repatriation of the Lithuanian German minority is easier to understand, though it really should be told in the context provided by Loeber's book.

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