

LETTERS

From the Editor:

Slavic Review publishes letters to the editor with educational or research merit. Where the letter concerns a publication in *Slavic Review*, the author of the publication will be offered an opportunity to respond. Space limitations dictate that comment regarding a book review should be restricted to one paragraph; comment on an article should not exceed 750 to 1,000 words. The editor will not publish ad hominem discourse.

E.D.M.

To the Editor:

While I appreciate his positive comments, Mr. Lebow's criticism of my book, *Surviving the Millennium* (*Slavic Review* 54, no. 3), totally misconstrues my concept of the global system as a dynamic "equipoise of power capabilities, perceived political intent, and international norm" as well as that of "alternative" realism. In no way do I argue that "bipolarity was responsible for stability," but that if major powers correctly perceive each other's political intent (and thereby work *within* international regimes and norms), then the chance for global conflict is minimized, regardless of the number of "poles" in the system. Furthermore, I do not argue that the US had the "interest" to "sustain" the USSR, but that Washington could have sought a *devolution* of Soviet power at earlier stages of the Cold War. And finally, I do justify my argument with facts. The "China Card" for example did help to implode the USSR: The Soviet Far Eastern build-up cost Moscow 2–3 times its build-up in eastern Europe. That Mr. Lebow refers to my last name as "Hall" rather than "Gardner" indicates that he could have read the book more attentively.

HALL GARDNER
American University of Paris

Ned Lebow chooses not to reply.

To the Editor:

In answer to Prof. Ben-Israel's comments on my presentation of Polish Foreign Minister Jozef Beck's policy toward Germany and Czechoslovakia in 1938 (*Slavic Review* 54, no. 2), I wish to inform readers of a key axiom of Polish interwar foreign policy, i.e. that Poland could never be on Germany's side in a European war. In was, therefore, axiomatic that in such a war, Poland would side with her ally France. Close cooperation or alliance with Germany was unacceptable because it would mean ceding to her territory deemed crucial to Polish independence. Furthermore, it was believed that Germany was bound to lose another war against the western powers, just as she had lost the first one. This axiom also applied to Czechoslovakia in 1938. All Polish documents support this axiom, as does US Ambassador Anthony J. Drexel Biddle's report of 19 June 1938.

ANNA M. CIENCIALA
University of Kansas

Hedva Ben-Israel chooses not to reply.

To the Editor:

The Summer 1995 issue (54.2) of *Slavic Review* contained a review of my book *The Origins of Democratization in Poland* by Kieran Williams. Williams' discussion of my application of the concept of legitimation to Poland is misleading. He misses the distinction I draw between illegitimate and nonlegitimate domination. I use "nonlegitimate" to describe the situation where obedience is based on material or coercive measures and "illegitimate" to describe those forms of domination that are tenuous. This distinction helps me to explain why the domination of the Polish party-state, while never successfully legitimated for any great length of time, was able to persist for over forty years. Having missed this, Williams misrepresents my discussion of

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