

entries. In addition, the nonperiodical nature of the bibliography is further defined here.

The bibliography itself lists 401 titles (plus four and a half pages of Soviet dissertations) covering Burma, Cambodia, Indo-China, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, and, in a general category, the region as a whole. The general subject areas are the social sciences, history, culture, and environment. Titles are in English followed by the Russian in transliteration, and any non-Russian languages are designated.

The work is thoughtful, well defined, well organized, and consistent in its terms and presentation; it should prove useful to specialists and librarians. However, certain personal quirks are present, such as the compilers' insistence on their own translations of some Soviet terms which by now have standard, acceptable counterparts in English: they call the All-Union Book Chamber the National Bibliographic Board, and *kandidat* a master's degree. In deference to persons who expect the standard nomenclature, they have provided a glossary in which each English-language term they use is listed with its Russian counterpart. Unfortunately, although they seem to have held to this method generally, the National Bibliographic Board has not been included in the glossary.

This book is the third in the Far Eastern and Russian Research Series of the School of Politics and International Relations of the University of Southern California. Let us hope there will be an opportunity to bring the bibliography up to date.

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LES RÉGIMES POLITIQUES DE L'U.R.S.S. ET DE L'EUROPE DE L'EST. By *Michel Lesage*. Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1971. 365 pp. 28 F., paper.

Professor Lesage sees his task as the reorientation of French scholarship on the Marxist socialist systems along functional lines. Knowing as he does from his position at a center that coordinates research on Eastern Europe that the focus has been placed for many years upon analysis of ideology and the legal record, he directs his attack at traditional approaches. Yet he would not discard all of what has been the French tradition. He adheres to the long-revered French approach to political analysis through the historical method. He has not been won over to the thoroughly behavioral approach. Consequently his study will shock his colleagues of the old school, but it will not antagonize them completely, for he has kept what French scholars deem essential, namely a firm grounding in history.

This little volume uses something of the approach of an encyclopedia in that it is so crowded with facts, citations, and bibliography that it becomes a convenient reference—a jog to failing memories rather than a speculative essay opening up new hypotheses for subsequent research. Its relative brevity precludes detailed development of a theme, but its references can point the way to further investigation, not only in French sources but to those written in Russian, English, and German. Its bibliographies, prepared with the well-known thoroughness of French scholars, could serve as check lists for librarians searching for a good working library in several languages. Statistical tables and charts illuminate the text.

Lesage concerns himself not only with the USSR but also with the extent to

which the Marxist-oriented East European states have applied the Soviet model to their own needs. He denies the utility of attempting to measure orthodoxy, being interested only in how the functions of Soviet-type institutions are performed elsewhere. He notes the variations between the extremes of Albania and Yugoslavia, but he finds a common core in the unique or dominant party and in the limitations placed by this party upon the freedom to disseminate ideas.

Lesage does not cut himself off from what is happening outside the Marxist-inspired world. He notes that administrative development is subject to the universally felt influence of technical progress. The task of leadership is what it is elsewhere—to maximize achievement and minimize cost while giving attention to the interests of citizens constantly pressing for an increase in the standard of living and a share in the decision-making process. The Marxian socialist variant on this world-wide theme is to be found in the historical experience through which the various Marxist-oriented states have passed, and the devotion the leadership still shows for its belief system based upon refinements of Marxist classical thought.

Lesage doubts that the pressures for an increased share in policy-making will result in any political change of note in the USSR, at least in the foreseeable future, but he expects evolution in other East European states. He thinks that their political and geographical proximity to Western Europe will cause their political structures to evolve more rapidly toward mass participation in government than will be the case in the USSR itself. To this he adds one important caveat: Soviet willingness to keep hands off.

This volume was written for a French public, not an American one. It will interest Americans primarily as a window on French scholarship and as an indication from a man with considerable influence that he intends to direct the oncoming generation of Slavists to think in more realistic terms than their predecessors of the benefits to be missed when studies are limited to legal formalities and essays in the realm of pure theory. As such it is an important milestone which Americans should not fail to note.

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MORAVIA'S HISTORY RECONSIDERED: A REINTERPRETATION OF  
MEDIÉVAL SOURCES. By *Imre Boba*. The Hague: Martinus Nijhoff,  
1971. ix, 167 pp. \$6.50, paper.

Anyone who undertakes a study in depth of the ninth-century political and ecclesiastical history of Central Europe has to face the frustrations of confusing documentation. Written records may be at variance with tradition, and key sources may be contradictory or badly transmitted. This meaty monograph is an illustration of this complex. The author is no stranger to the problems of southern and western Slavdom. In 1967 he published his dissertation under the title *Nomads, Northmen and Slavs*, in which he presented some new and challenging views on several early aspects of the movements of the peoples of Eastern Europe.

The present monograph is in a sense a continuation of the earlier study, focusing attention on one of the rapidly changing entities of Central Europe: Moravia, or as it is also known, the Great Moravian Empire. Professor Boba is convinced that most if not all previous students of this area have been wrong in their approach to the subject in so vital a matter as political geography of the ninth century.