

KATASTROFA I VTOROE ROZHDENIE: MEMUARNYE ZAPISKI. By *Evgenii Gnedin*. "Biblioteka Samizdata," no. 8. Amsterdam: The Alexander Herzen Foundation, 1977. 328 pp. Paper.

IZ ISTORII OTNOSHENII MEZHDU SSSR I FASHISTSKOI GERMANIEI: DOKUMENTY I SOVREMENNYE KOMMENTARI. By *E. Gnedin*. New York: "Khronika," 1977. 60 pp. \$3.00, paper.

Evgenii Gnedin's fascinating memoir, *Katastrofa i vtoroe rozhdenie*, concerns three themes: his campaign in 1924–25 to win the inheritance of his father, Alexander Parvus-Helphand, the removal in 1939 of Maxim Litvinov as Soviet minister for foreign affairs, and Gnedin's own imprisonment and interrogation in 1939–40. Always a loyal Soviet citizen, Gnedin offers a remarkable example of the frustration and anxiety officials experienced in their struggle to conform during the Stalin era. Even as Litvinov's policy of "collective security" was being abandoned in 1939, Soviet police interrogated Litvinov's aides in an attempt to prove his disloyalty.

As press spokesman for the foreign ministry, one of Gnedin's assignments, during the brief interval between Litvinov's dismissal and his own arrest, was to explain the change in the minister's office. Since he mentioned the name of Henry Shapiro in his account of those confused days, I asked Mr. Shapiro if he had any recollection of Gnedin's work. Mr. Shapiro declared that he had considered Gnedin one of the ministry's better officials, and he recalled having asked Gnedin whether Molotov's appointment meant a change in Soviet foreign policy. Gnedin asserted that it did not, and then, in a brief aside to Shapiro personally, he snapped, "You know the answer to that."

Gnedin's brief volume on Soviet-German relations constitutes an effort at a revisionist interpretation of Stalin's foreign policy in the 1930s. Gnedin, who still lives in Moscow, firmly believed in Litvinov's efforts on behalf of collective security, and he here examines evidence that Molotov and, initially, Radek—without Litvinov's knowledge but with Stalin's obvious approval—worked to keep open the lines of communication with Berlin. The pact of August 1939, he argues, was not simply the result of developments in the summer of 1939; it had deeper roots. The volume is made up of a series of essays and documents, written during the 1960s, in which Gnedin comments on revelations from published German diplomatic documents and adds his own memories and interpretations. In all, one can only hope that such efforts as Gnedin's will eventually lead to a more critical analysis by Soviet historians of their own diplomatic history.

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THE INEQUALITY OF NATIONS. By *Robert W. Tucker*. New York: Basic Books, 1977. x, 214 pp. \$10.95.

Robert W. Tucker received considerable public attention a few years ago when he suggested that the United States consider military intervention in the Persian Gulf as a feasible and appropriate response to the threat to the Western world caused by the OPEC oil embargo. In this provocative book, he continues his criticism of Western liberals' conventional wisdom, which holds that the Third World's claims to greater power are morally justified and must be heeded. He challenges the premises of the current North-South dialogue, which aims to create a more egalitarian international system. He examines critically the demand by developing countries for a massive redistribution of resources from the developed world, and he questions the nature of