GENERAL ISSUES

SOCIAL THEORY AND SOCIAL SCIENCE


The present volume, based on a doctorate thesis (Edinburgh 1981), has a dual aim: a critical discussion of “the conceptions of social class employed by Marx and by modern Marxist writers” on the one hand, and, on the other, a (partial) analysis of the class relations in post-war Britain. The author takes issue with Poulantzas, Olin Wright, Colliot-Thélène and Carchedi on their class theories, and proposes a mode of analysis “which moves at several levels (investigation of economic classes at the level of property relations, investigation of social and cultural collectivities, investigation of political forces) unencumbered by the a priori assumption of correspondence between these levels and able to identify the specific connections in particular social formations”. From this starting-point Dr Cottrell deals with, among other things, “impersonal capital”, the Labour Party and Thatcherism.


Le Play’s endeavours to upgrade social science into a positive science analogous to natural science are central in this mimeographed study. The author starts with a fairly detailed biography of Le Play, and then discusses a number of key ideas from his theory of society as well as his method of observation. Most of her attention is devoted to Les Ouvriers européens (1855) and to La Réforme sociale en France (1864).


The above volume, written “within a broadly Marxist framework”, concentrates on the contribution of agriculture to capitalist development. A couple of general-theoretical chapters, dealing in particular with neo-
Smithian Marxism (A. G. Frank, I. Wallerstein) and the “articulation” approach (E. Laclau, R. Brenner et al.), are followed by two case-studies on the transformation of the agricultural sector in twentieth-century Brazil and Mexico. The authors insist that “the dominant type [of agricultural structure] which becomes established depends upon specific historical conditions and local circumstances”.


The “life-record” approach of Thomas and Znaniecki is staging a come-back in sociology, greatly facilitated by the general availability of the tape-recorder. These “New Contributions and Research Perspectives” deal with theoretical problems or analyze subjective case histories of patients, workers’ recollections, etc. We draw special attention to the comparison of the record of four Nuremberg workers under the Nazi regime, by Jürgen Franzke et al.


In spite of its title the present volume is not an occasional publication to commemorate the centenary of Marx’s death. Fifteen scholars, all of whom consider themselves Marxists (Eric Hobsbawm even raises the question “When are we ‘Marxists’?”), discuss aspects of Marx’s work to which they feel especially drawn. Cesare Luporini deals with Marx’s conception of history. The non-Italian contributors include Paul Sweezy and Pierre Vilar (Marx on Spain). An index of names is appended.

HISTORY


The editor-in-chief of the Archiv für Sozialgeschichte has deserved well of labour historians all over the world by compiling this unique directory of archives and libraries relevant to their research, and also of specialized institutes and organizations (including, e.g., the Society for the Study of Labour History and the International Association of Labour History Institutions). The information is given countrywise (Italy takes up over fifty pages) and presented in a uniform way; thus, holdings, publications and other activities are specified throughout. In an appendix the addresses of the main general libraries and record offices in Europe are given. There is also an index of institutions, which does not cover the appendix.

The present volume is the first of a large-scale work on the psychology of the nineteenth-century middle classes in Europe and the United States. “I think of these classes as a family of desires and anxieties”, Professor Gay says, and it should be added that this does not necessarily mean profit hunting and fear of revolution. What the opening volume does provide is a pioneering revisionist interpretation of “Victorian” behaviour in the fields of sexuality and procreation. Combining an intimate knowledge of relevant source materials such as diaries with a non-reductionist brand of psychoanalysis, the author shows that behind a façade of puritan respectability sexual fulfilment was possible for both partners, even if they were married.


This useful guide offers practical data (including public-transport facilities) on fifty-one Parisian institutions, specialized or not, where labour historians may find relevant tools and information. What kind of tools and information they may expect in each case is specified in considerable detail, and three appended indices show at a glance where a set of Die Neue Zeit, something on or by Marx and even the Parti Populaire Français, etc., are to be found. Needless to say that students of French labour history are served first, but a look at the above indices may profit others as well.


The present volume, a translation of Kategorii srednevekovoy kul’tury (Moscow 1972), is a remarkable book. In spite of a few protective quotations from Marx’s (less dogmatic) writings it is closer to the Weberian than to the Marxist tradition. It takes the Weltanschauung and the cultural symbolism of mediaeval people very seriously; if anything, they are seen as determinants rather than as mere epiphenomena. Discussing the “categories” selected for a close analysis (space, time, law, wealth and labour), Professor Gurevic first focuses on the Dark Ages, notably Scandinavian culture, and then on the High Middle Ages. One should take the book as it is: an important contribution to the histoire des mentalités, not to social history. As far as feudal society is concerned the existence of a “ruling class” is not denied, but still mediaeval culture is supposed to have been one of small-scale owner producers.

This collection was meant as a festschrift for James Joll, who retired from the Stevenson Chair of International History at the London School of Economics in 1981. All fifteen essays relate to contemporary European history, but apart from that they are quite unequal as to their topics and their quality. A by no means original contribution by David W. Morgan on the first generation of orthodox Marxists is a foil to Tim Mason’s penetrating “Barrington Moore and the Reaction of German Workers to Nazism”. Comprehensive subjects alternate with discussions of the ideas of individuals. So Charles Maurras is dealt with by H. R. Kedward, Roman Dmowski by the third editor, and Ludwig Erhard by Volker Berghahn. The volume is rounded off with a bibliography of Joll’s writings.


The present volume contains the papers read at the third bilateral seminar of labour historians from the GDR and Austria (Leipzig 1983), centring on the formation of Socialist labour movements in the two countries. Among the major contributions are one by Hartmut Zwahr on the social basis of German Social Democracy circa 1875 and one by Josef Ehmer on the role played by artisans in the constitution of the Viennese workers’ movement. Some of the essays – e.g., Harald Koth’s one on Marxism and revisionism, and that by Manfred Neuhaus on the new MEGA – hardly seem to relate to the theme of the conference.


This book, which has its origin in a Parisian State-doctorate thesis, is not easy to read, let alone to review. It is highly selective as to its subject-matter, full of associations, and written in a very personal style. Two quite readable chapters on the “explosion” of Mariolatry in France and Germany are followed by rather recondite essays on female characters in the works of German and French Romanticists, Goethe and Wagner. Unlike Mario Praz in his classic The Romantic Agony, Professor Michaud pays no attention to the fascination of the femme fatale. There is a separate chapter on the early Socialists in France, but this is tantalizingly short.

The nineteen studies that make up the present volume have their origin in a symposium of American historians held in New York in November 1980. English and American radicalism during the seventeenth and the eighteenth centuries is discussed in its various manifestations. There are several contributions on religious and working-class radicalism, and even early Tory radicalism is given its due. A composite index is appended.


Aiming at a rather wide readership, the present author has written a book on the late-mediaeval and early-modern revolutions in Europe. Two systematic parts on "Structures" and "Elements" are followed by an account of seven specimina, ranging from Cola di Rienzo's Roman tribunate to the Bohemian "defenestration" of 1618. The revolutions in question are related to, and explained from, the contradictions inherent in European civilization. As the appended bibliography does not include Professor Seibt's Hussitica (cf. IRSH, XII (1967), pp. 148f.), the references in the notes to "Seibt, 1965" are as many dead leads.


The title of the above volume suggests that this is intended as a sequel to Professor Silberner's Sozialisten zur Judenfrage, which was noticed in IRSH, VIII (1963), pp. 122ff. The opening chapters on Marx and Engels are basically reprinted from the latter volume. They are followed by chapters on the attitudes of Rosa Luxemburg, Lenin, Trockij and Stalin towards the Jews and the Jewish question. A third group of chapters deals with the policies of the CPSU, the Polish Communists (up to 1968), the KPD and the Comintern. The general picture is one of indifference and even hostility vis-a-vis the Jewish identity.


These sixteen studies, many of which have their origin in a conference held in Turin on the occasion of the Buozzi centenary, deal with trade unionism during the first two decades of the twentieth century. Most contributions have developments outside Italy for their subject, and well-known names for their author: Perrot and Julliard, Tenfelde and Schönównen, Montgomery and Kendall. As for the Italian contributions, three of these focus on the FIOM.
OTHER BOOKS


CONTEMPORARY ISSUES


The nearly thirty contributions to the present volume have their origin in a symposium held at Cerisy-la-Salle in 1979. Its objective was to bring together “actors” and students of social movements, and accordingly one will find here, apart from the many social scientists, several (leftist) politicians, like Manuel Azcarate and Gilles Martinet. Heterogeneous themes are raised for discussion, such as the national question in Quebec, the women’s movement, trade unionism, urban struggles, and the relation between political parties and social movements.

OTHER BOOKS


CONTINENTS AND COUNTRIES

AMERICA

United States of America


The first two volumes of this documentary history were noticed in IRSH, XXV (1980), pp. 115f., with a summary sketch of the general set-up of the work. In the present volumes, which complete the series, two subjects preponderate. First, there are the working and living conditions of the Negroes, and their attempts to better themselves by collective action; in Vol. VI considerable space is taken up by the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. The second main subject is the wide range of attitudes adopted by the predominantly white trade-union organizations regarding black labour and the issues involved. The Black Worker is a unique publication with a direct relevance to labour history. Each volume has its own composite index.

DANNENBAUM, JED. Drink and Disorder. Temperance Reform in Cincinnati from the Washingtonian Revival to the WCTU. University of Illinois Press, Urbana, Chicago 1984; distr. by Harper & Row Europe, Hilversum. xii, 245 pp. Ill. $ 22.50.

In this study the development of the temperance movement during the nineteenth century is investigated at the community level, with special attention to Cincinnati. The author distinguishes three phases: “social temperance, epitomized by the fraternal temperance orders established in the 1840s; political temperance, which culminated in the state prohibition campaigns of the 1850s; and female-dominated confrontational temperance, which grew from isolated incidents of saloon destruction in the 1850s to the Woman’s Crusade of 1873-74”.


The present volume is a facsimile reprint of Hermann Schlüter’s history of the ante-bellum German-American workers’ movement. This reprint is especially welcome because it contains many data and quotations from sources that are no longer available today. Unfortunately there is no index whatever.


This is a facsimile reprint, with an adapted introduction, of an important monograph that was first published in 1967. For an outline of the contents we may refer to our notice in IRSH, XIV (1969), p. 284.
ASIA

Indonesia


According to the present author Dutch colonialism gave rise to what she calls a mestizo culture. This culture, in which Asia-born, Eurasian and even Asian women played important roles, in its turn engendered "a society with interests of its own and a singular family system and network of clans". The mestizo culture came under attack time and again, but quite a lot of it could survive well into the twentieth century.

EUROPE


The opening volume of Metternich's German Policy appeared in 1963 and was noticed in IRSH, IX (1964), pp. 154f. The present one does not deal with the years 1814-20 (as announced in Vol. I), but is confined to the Congress of Vienna. Nor is the central subject the contest with Alexander of Russia, the focus being rather on the struggle with the Prussian rival in Germany. Professor Kraehe argues that Metternich was less in favour of a restoration of the political system overthrown by Napoleon, and more concerned with German unity, than was the Prussian Chancellor Hardenberg.


Central in this study, which is mainly based on secondary sources, is the social position of teachers as it evolved during the nineteenth century. The author first deals with the situation in Germany, in great detail and with the emphasis on the Standwerdung of the teaching profession, and then discusses the English case more briefly. The comparison of the two histories leads to Dr Thien's conclusion that the differences between the countries are outweighed by the similarities (separate schools for higher and lower social classes, and the oppositions between groups of teachers this entailed), but that the differences were by no means negligible.

OTHER BOOKS

Löw, Raimund. Der Zerfall der "Kleinen Internationale". Nationalitäten-

Austria


The present volume, which is very well researched, sheds a new light on the Tyrolese leader in the German Peasants’ War. The author has found out that the Gaismair family had a substantial interest in the local galena-mining industry. Combining a focus on their specific class position with the insights of individual psychology, she explains Michael Gaismair’s career from a number of social and personal frustrations. In her view he was not a revolutionary, and rather than the Communists it was the Nazis who were entitled to incorporate him with their movement.

OTHER BOOKS


Eire – Ireland


“In the space of only about ten years Labour changed from being little more than a collection of well-meaning, hard-working individuals to a party fitting into the Western European social democratic tradition. The transition did not bring the electoral success some had hoped, but it was none the less necessary.” Throughout his book the author places the Labour Party in the context of Irish society and political culture. A composite index is appended.

France


In this popular book the origins of the split in the CGT which occurred in 1921 are dealt with from a Trotskyist vantage point. The authors do not seem to be familiar with Jean-Louis Robert’s study on the subject, which was noticed in IRSH, XXVI (1981), p. 389.

The present volume is a good edition of the hitherto unpublished recollections of the French chair maker Bédé. The author first tells about his youth, his military record during the revolution and his settlement in Paris, and then, at considerable length, about his mutual-aid society established in 1818, the industrial dispute which ensued, as well as the trial and the short term of imprisonment he had to undergo. Dr Gossez’s commentary is modest, but very much to the point. A composite index is appended.


This book, a simplified version of a State-doctorate thesis (Aix-Marseille, I, 1980), scrutinizes, from a Marxist angle, the Messieurs who constituted the Parlement of Aix-en-Provence in the eighteenth century. The author discusses the social consequence of the magistrates (their position in the interplay of classes, King and Church), but also pays due attention to internal cleavages, the degree of group solidarity, and ideological tendencies and tensions.


During the inter-war years to gain a foothold in the workshop was the target first of the Communists (from the “bolshevization” in 1924 onwards), and later of the Socialists (starting from the Popular Front). The present study, partly made up of two revised Paris mémoires de maîtrise, investigates this development as it can be traced through the events at the Renault works. Industrial relations, strikes and the fluctuations in the sway of leftist activists (Communists in particular) are dealt with in great detail.


Apart from a biographical outline of fifty-five pages and a number of contemporary comments, this nicely illustrated book contains selections from Godin’s writings, speeches and letters. The edition does not meet high
scholarly standards, and the rubber back binding of the volume is of poor quality.


The subject of the present volume is the urban grammar schools which flourished in sixteenth-century France, with the notable exception of Paris. This phenomenon is closely related to the new "gentry" discussed by the same author in his book Les Bourgeois Gentilshommes (cf. IRSH, XXIII (1978), p. 316). Being in part based on unpublished sources, the volume certainly has pioneering qualities.


Professor Nye, who has already an intellectual biography of Le Bon to his name (cf. IRSH, XX (1975), p. 465), now shows how before 1914 medical theories of degeneration presented themselves, both for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes, to a French public concerned about national decline, and were widely accepted. The volume is mainly based on printed source materials.


The pseudonymous author of these "confessions" is one of the first alumni of the famous École Nationale d'Administration, which was founded in 1945 to provide training for the higher ranks of the French civil service. Written in the form of letters addressed to a nephew, the volume is a devastating critique of the so-called énarchie. The real gravamen is not its growing dysfunctions, but the waste of badly needed entrepreneurial energies it involves (hence the title).

Other Books


Germany


Unlike Richard van Dülmen’s book Der Geheimbund der Illuminaten, which was noticed in IRSH, XX (1975), p. 296, the present volume is characterized by a highly theoretical approach, even if the author has worked up some fresh archival evidence. The focus is on the world-view of the Illuminati, not on their social background or on their (putative) social and political impact. This world-view is shown to be a complex and even contradictory affair: the groundwork is a pronounced Utopianism, but its rationalism does not exclude a curious mysticism, and there is also a striking resemblance to the Enlightened Despotism which the Illuminati wanted to replace.


Dr Blanning, who has already a book called Reform and Revolution in Mainz to his name (cf. IRSH, XX (1975), p. 131), has now written another important monograph, which covers the whole left bank of the Rhine between Alsace and the Netherlands. The general picture is the same: that of an almost total immunity from revolutionary sympathies, which was not only caused by old loyalties, but also by the forbidding French style of warfare, occupation and administration. This volume too is extremely well researched; moreover, it is written in a very readable style spiced with dry humour.


Apart from an introduction, a chronology and a selected bibliography the present reader contains thirty-four texts previously published elsewhere, and partly revised for the occasion, plus three original contributions. Together they give a good idea of the status quaeestionis regarding the Nazi regime in its several aspects. There is a certain bias towards opinions shared by Professor Bracher, and this may be said to apply even to the few pages from D. E. Mel’nikov’s and L. B. Černaja’s Prestupnik nomer 1 (Moscow 1981). Unfortunately there is no index whatever.


These are the first of several volumes stemming from the so-called Berlin Project of the local Free University. The central concern of this project is the genesis of an anti-Communist consensus in at least part of post-war Berlin. People who were prepared to resist the Russian authorities and their German protégés had a tough job during the first years. An apathetic mood was widespread, nor could the Western partners in the four-power administration of the city be depended on for support. It is a matter of record that those Social Democrats who refused to join the SED were in the forefront of the battle against Communism. Their background is examined in Vol. II, partly on prosopographical lines. Each volume has a separate index of names.


The present volume is a very welcome organizational and political history of Social Democracy in Frankfort-on-the-Main during the operation of the Anti-Socialist Law and the five subsequent years. It is extremely well researched: the author has worked up any materials of police and governmental provenance he could get hold of, and also numerous documents in the custody of the Internationaal Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis. The reader must not expect a success story, let alone a triumphal progress. Perpetual ideological quarrels eventually resulted in an ascendancy of reformism, the survival of the party largely depending on the organization of the trade unions. Fifty short biographies and an index of names are appended.


July 1884 saw the setting up of the Reichsversicherungsamt, a high court of justice which in the course of the years had to cover an ever expanding field of action, ranging from unemployment benefits to indemnities for war victims. The above voluminous publication consists of over thirty contributions on the administration of social justice in (West) Germany during the last hundred years. The authors – most of them judges – deal, among other things, with the following topic clusters: the history of the Reichsversicherungsamt; institutional aspects of social jurisdiction (e.g., the role of professional judges, honorary judges and experts); the development of
social jurisdiction in numerous areas (work injuries, the disabled, collective agreements, women); international aspects.


Professor Feldman follows up his fundamental Army, Industry and Labor in Germany 1914-1918, noticed in IRSH, XI (1966), p. 492, with a collection of eleven essays, all of them published before. They deal with important political and economic aspects of German developments during the period 1900-33, with a special emphasis on the break in the industrial relations by the end of the First World War.


The present study retraces some of the main lines in the growth of the German civil service in the nineteenth century. The author begins by distinguishing different stages in the expansion of the apparatus (as compared with the overall population increase), and next concerns himself mostly with two questions: the gradual but not constant (and varying, moreover, from region to region) shift from the recruitment of civil servants among the nobility to enrolment of people from the middle class, and, secondly, to the relation between university-trained civil servants and non-graduate ones.


In this mimeographed doctorate thesis (Bochum 1982) the social characteristics of an aggregate of 1,805 officers of the Nazi Sturmabteilung are carefully analyzed. The descent of these men was predominantly middle-class, but because of an unusual measure of mobility their social position was really, not imaginarily, “between the classes”. One hundred tables are included.


The present volume is an important monograph on labour law and its administration during the Nazi regime. Dr Kranig approaches the complicated subject-matter (there were many cooks involved) strictly from a legal point of view. Yet indirectly he has certainly made a valuable contribution to labour history.


This is a popular reader on the Nazi regime and the German working class. Its second, and longest, chapter focuses on the farce of May 1, 1933, and on the catastrophe of May 2. The other chapters shed light on the social and economic policy of the Nazis, on their demagogy, etc. (often in their own words), but also on various forms of resistance.


The present volume is in its way a real concordance of the central concepts used by Marx and Engels. Each of the 131 alphabetically arranged articles (there are also over a hundred references such as Krieg, vide Frieden) consists of an editorial definition, quotations from Marx and Engels, and references to other statements made by them. The selection of the quotations and the references (e.g., those on war and peace) is often open to criticism.


History of the people by the people for the people: thus the project of the above volume could be summarized (the title is a statement ascribed by Rosa Luxemburg to Lassalle). The contributors are trained historians, but most of them have worked up a great deal of oral history, and also findings of local amateur historians. Hardly any attention is paid to the fringe areas of the Land North Rhine Westphalia, the focus being definitely on the Ruhr. The well-chosen illustrations are partly in colour.


Professor Nipperdey, already noted for a number of shorter historical studies, has dared to write a work of synthesis on German history between Napoleon and Bismarck. His performance has rightly earned him high praise from many quarters. Although he is alive to the primacy of political history ("Am Anfang war Napoleon", to quote the lapidary opening sentence), he pays as much attention to social and economic, cultural and ecclesiastical history. Being a historicist in the best sense of the word, he has admirably avoided the pitfalls of both progressivist pedantry and reactionary
nostalgia. The volume is written in an excellent style. There are no notes, but a number of suggestions for further reading are appended.


The German ordinances, selections and illustrations gathered together in the present volume, dating from the period between the end of the Middle Ages and 1815, prescribe a set of virtues which have their origin in the housekeeping sphere, and later came to be called bürgerlich; the civic virtues are certainly not among them. Professor Münch has not modernized the texts, because in his opinion that would suggest an anachronistic measure of order. As a result the early-modern texts do not make easy reading.


When Professor Prinz died in 1981, the manuscript of this book was well advanced but not yet completed. Mr Barkai was entrusted with the final revised draft by the Leo Baeck Institute. Based on secondary sources, the study is an inquiry into "the connections between the Jewish economic development and performance and the German economy it formed part of"; it covers, for all the title may suggest, the whole period 1815-1914. The main conclusion is that throughout this century a "group-specific Jewish economic behaviour" can be discerned.


Basing herself not only on Lamprecht's published writings, but also, and even especially, on his huge correspondence, the present author successively deals with his academic career, his social-psychological approach of history, his other public activities, and "Karl Lamprecht and 'New History'". The contention that Paul Kampffmeyer is a pseudonym of Franz Mehring is neither here nor there.


In the early decades of German Social Democracy party activists were supposed to be a kind of jack of all trades. Thus, the majority of the pre-1918 Socialist Reichstag members were journalists as well. The main subject of the present volume is the party press and party journalism, and only towards
the end, notably in the short biographies of all the pre-1918 Socialist Reichstag members, does the theme “journalists with a mandate” come into its own. The author points out the later trend (which was temporarily blurred by the outbreak of the First World War) towards professionalization and specialization.


For many years Professor Stokes has been studying the Nazi movement and the Nazi regime in a single small town, Eutin, between Kiel and Lübeck. Many of our readers will remember his article on the social composition of the local Ortsgruppe published in IRSH, XXIII (1978), pp. 1ff. The documents gathered together in this voluminous book focus on the political history of the Ortsgruppe; they are printed with numerous excisions. The annotation is very much to the point. Indices of persons, geographical names and subjects are appended.


The present volume, commissioned by the Society for Frankfort Labour History, is a popular outline of the cultural activities of Social Democracy and the free trade unions in Frankfort during the Weimar Republic. It is largely based on the local Volksstimme. The focus is on the Kulturkartell der modernen Arbeiterbewegung, which was established in 1925.


The editors of this mimeographed book conceive of the socio-economic and cultural history of the Weimar Republic as a prelude to the extermination of the European Jews by the Nazis. They have commissioned historians like Petzina, Kühnl, Stachura, Geary and Breitman, as well as two “women’s students”, to bring to bear their special knowledge on the subject, but none of them proves able to shed any new light on the catastrophe in question. George Kren and Leon Rappoport, dealing with “Failures of Thought in Holocaust Interpretation”, leave the Weimar Republic out of account, and question the very foundations of modern civilization. The volume bristles with often very annoying misprints.

Drawing on a wealth of unpublished source material, Professor Vann has written an important case-study of a (minor) modern State in the making. Abstract concepts such as Absolutism and the rise of bureaucracy give way to, or are given substance by, a vivid account of the interplay of political, institutional and also social forces. For all their ambitions the Dukes of Wurtemberg had to reckon with their privy council and with the territorial estates, nor was the Empire the nonentity it is often thought to have been.


This Vol. 198 of the *Erträge der Forschung* series is not a short history of the KPD, but a very welcome survey of the multicoloured historiography on the subject. A systematic introduction is followed by chapters on the successive stages in the party’s history. As might be expected of the highly expert but committed author, the account is quite critical of the mass production of the GDR historians. An index of writer’s names (not including Hermann Weber) is appended.


The present volume is made up of thirty-five of Gerd Wunder’s minor writings, all of which are reprinted in facsimile, plus the titles of his other writings. It contains a good deal of social history grounded in genealogical and prosopographical research. There is a separate group of studies on the town of Schwäbisch Hall (on which the author is an authority), but also one on the Germans in Chile. An index of persons and geographical names is appended.

**OTHER BOOKS**


**Great Britain**


Thomas Spence (1750-1814), “a typical specimen of those political poor preachers” (Francis Place), was probably the first to advocate the general
strike and aimed at the abolition of private property without legal prelimi-
naries. In the present study his life and work are reconstructed by Professor
Ashraf with great love for details. She discusses, in three separate essays,
biography, teachings and works of the man who wrote, among other things,
*Pigs' Meat* and *A Supplement to the History of Robinson Crusoe*.

The Autobiography of the Working Class. An Annotated, Critical

This very welcome guide lists and analyzes more than a thousand memoirs,
or groups of memoirs, written by members of the lower orders in Britain,
and pertaining to the late eighteenth and the nineteenth centuries. Both
printed and manuscript items are included. The analysis is not confined to
the detailed abstract appended to each item; it is continued in several
indices, notably “General”, “Places”, “Occupations”, “Education”, and
even “Dates”. The value of the present volume, a sequel to which is
currently in preparation, for social historians needs no further comment.

BRIGGS, ASA and ANNE MACARTNEY. Toynbee Hall. The First Hundred
208 pp. Ill. £ 15.00.

Toynbee Hall, a pioneering social settlement in East London, enjoys a good
reputation all over the world. It has many links with the working-class
movement, including even Lenin. The present volume is not just a centenary
memoir, but a well-researched monograph which is largely based on
manuscript source materials. Numerous illustrations are included.

CAMPOS BORALEVI, LEA. Bentham and the Oppressed. Walter de Gruyter,

Jeremy Bentham is known as the utilitarian philosopher whose objective
was the “greatest happiness of the greatest number”. His ideas on those who
are not happy but depressed are brought to the fore in this doctorate thesis
(Florence, European University Institute, 1980). Dr Campos successively
discusses the utilitarian’s viewpoints with respect to women, sexual
nonconformists, Jews, the indigent, native people in the colonies, slaves,
and animals. One major conclusion is that many important elements of
Bentham’s attitude towards the oppressed are “in practice ‘borrowed’ from
the natural rights theory and from the philosophies of sympathy, which he
claimed to reject totally”. Some unpublished manuscripts of Bentham’s are
included in an appendix.

CANNON, JOHN. Aristocratic Century. The peerage of eighteenth-century
“One is struck by the vast amount of work that has been done on the French nobility compared with the English and the more so in the light of their respective achievements.” Professor Cannon’s book on the relatively tiny top of the English aristocracy in the eighteenth century does a great deal to supply this want. His very readable and well-researched treatment of the elite in question is provided with numerous tables, both in the text and in the notes. It is shown that the peers were not exactly an open elite, though they pretended to be one for political purposes. The paradox of their increasing power on the eve of and during the Industrial Revolution is given due attention.


The present volume is the second collection of working-class autobiographies edited by Professor Burnett (cf. IRSH, XX (1975), pp. 302f.). Its publication was made possible by the overwhelming response to the invitations to send in reminiscences announced in the press and in a BBC programme. The twenty-eight fragments give a broad picture of nineteenth-century working-class childhood. According to the editor they suggest, among other things, that contrary to what has been argued “the care and affection of parents for their children does not appear to be related directly to social class”.


Mr Hanson, who has already two books on the history of inland navigation to his name (cf. IRSH, XXI (1976), pp. 302f., and XXIII, p. 457), has now written a popular book on travelling by coach in England on the eve of the railway revolution. This transport system was “full of romance and anecdote”, as a contemporary put it, and the present author has not withstood the temptation to be anecdotal rather than analytical. All the same he stresses that the English coaches were less safe and more expensive than the Irish and the French ones.


Professor Himmelfarb, an American authority on Victorian England, has ventured on a magnum opus dealing with the concepts of poverty and the images of the poor in England from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries. The present volume gets as far as the 1850's; it is based on a wealth of printed sources and markedly well written. The focus is not on actual poverty and the plight of the poor, but on contemporary ideas and perceptions, which were of course vital to the way in which the problems in
question were defined and tackled. A detailed discussion of Smith, Malthus and their disciples is followed by chapters on the New Poor Law, conservative and radical comments (including Engels and the vocabulary of class), the culture of poverty, and the “fictional poor”.


Professor Hobsbawm’s new book is thematically a sequel to his Labouring Men, which appeared over twenty years ago (cf. IRSH, X (1965), pp. 345f.). Once more the focus is on the problems concerning the formation and evolution of the working class. Many of the seventeen studies brought together here are devoted to cultural and ideological aspects, like religion and rituals, but also the perennial question of the labour aristocracy is again given due attention. About half of the studies were never published before (that is, not in English) or have been rewritten to a considerable extent.


The present volume is a very critical study, based on a wide range of both published and unpublished materials, of the role played by organized British labour in the First World War. The author is particularly censorious of the men who represented the Labour Party in the successive coalition governments. In his view they allowed themselves to be used by their “bourgeois” partners, achieving nothing except in terms of their own career. A considerable amount of attention is paid to the radicalization of the rank and file, but this had not much effect either.


The opening volume of this work appeared twelve years ago, and was noticed in IRSH, XIX (1974), p. 153. It is followed by what might be called a chronicle of the principal craft union in the British shipbuilding industry during the first decades of the twentieth century; the set-up is the same as that of Vol. 1. John Hill is of course very much in the centre of the account, but the author also pays considerable attention to the part played by Harry Pollitt in the Boilermakers’ Society.

The many dozens of fragments brought together in the present volume offer a many-sided picture of life and thought of nineteenth-century English women. In her excellent introduction Mrs Murray points to three prevailing categories in the popular imagery of women: the images of "happy and fulfilled womanhood", of "corrupted womanhood" and of "suffering womanhood". These alternatives are easy to recognize in the texts she has chosen. Among the countless aspects that come up for discussion are topics like "suffering for beauty", marriage, motherhood and "old maidism", but also female education, factory work, prostitution, and "Florence Nightingale and the Professionalization of Nursing".


"Arising out of the 600th anniversary of 1381, this book is being published to commemorate those popular radical movements that carried its spirit and ideals into later centuries." Those movements turn out to include Monmouth's Rebellion of 1685 as well as the Suffragettes. The volume is aimed at a wide readership, and does not have any scholarly merits.


"In making this selection, I was conscious above all of the need to provide material for an alternative history of England which would put the radical progressive views of the people themselves at the centre of the narrative." The result is a curious book, which not only incorporates Shakespeare with the progressive camp, but also calls the period 1789-1848 "The Age of Revolution and Total War".


The first five volumes of this useful guide were noticed in IRSH, XX (1975), p. 474, XXII, pp. 464f., and XXIV, pp. 284f. In the mean time part of the information given in those volumes has become obsolete or incomplete, and the present supplement is therefore very welcome. The Modern Records Centre of the University of Warwick (cf. IRSH, XXVII (1982), p. 388) turns out to have been very active in its field.


The present volume is one of the first of the new Pelican Social History of Britain to be published. Mr Stevenson, who is not a new-comer to the British social history of the inter-war years (vide IRSH, XXIII (1978), p. 460),
focuses on living conditions rather than on working conditions or organized labour. According to him the British were a nation that was both stable and progressive, in spite of mass unemployment and inequalities. His insight that in a number of respects the Second World War left a more permanent mark upon British society than the First has not resulted in a corresponding deal of attention.


Twelve years after his “interim summary report” Population since the Industrial Revolution, which was noticed in IRSH, XIX (1974), pp. 317f., Mr Tranter presents another introduction to the study of British historical demography, this time in the framework of the Themes in British Social History series. The various aspects and problems, including migration, are set forth in a careful and expert manner. The continual regional comparisons also include Ireland.


The present volume deals with the effects of industrialization and urbanization on public health rather than with health care. These well-known effects are discussed in separate chapters: infant mortality, poverty and overcrowding, (in)sanitary conditions, contagious and industrial diseases, and atmospheric and river pollution. Although the volume aptly opens upon the health problems of the royal family, the focus is very much on the lower orders. Drawing on a wide range of printed materials, Professor Wohl has written a quite readable book.

OTHER BOOKS


ITALY


This study is concerned with the history of ideas, and treats of the thinking of three early Marxists: Arturo Labriola, Enrico Leone, and Longobardi. The author, paying a good deal of attention to the politico-philosophical setting
in which these Socialists were operating, points, among other things, to the relations with the liberal ideology and with the conceptions of Sorel, Pareto and Mosca.


The previous volume of this encyclopaedia was noticed in IRSH, XXII (1977), p. 294. In the present one the scope of the subject-matter included still tends to broaden. Thus, there are not only articles on the arctic explorer Nobile and the playwright Pirandello, but also on Sylvia Pankhurst (without any mention of Silvia Franchini’s important book) and Anton Pannekoek. Pope Pius XII has got an entry that is strikingly uncritical.


The present author has interviewed a sample of sixty-seven Turin workers, both male and female, on their experiences during the Fascist regime. In spite of the subtitle her book is not just oral history: she has taken the trouble to check what the interviewees had to say against contemporary police files, etc. As a result the account gains in authenticity what it loses in antifascist rhetoric, for the actual behaviour of the workers was a rather complex affair.

The Netherlands


This book is, first and foremost, a treatise on the expansion and contraction of the Dutch economy during what the author calls, in the footsteps of Schumpeter, the fourth Kondratieff (1936-84). In the second place it is intended as a contribution to Christian Democratic thinking about a society that is to be both just and efficient. The author, who presents himself as a “sad old banker”, is very critical of the over-expansion of the public sector, dogmatic Socialist experiments and the abuse of trade-union power (“monopolie-laborisme”), all of which aggravated the contraction of the ’seventies in his view. He is much less alive to entrepreneurial inefficiency.


Dr de Jonge, who was an active member of the Dutch CP from 1945 to 1964, disposes of an intimate knowledge of the party’s grass-roots at the time. This proved a real asset when he wrote Het Communisme in Nederland (vide IRSH, XVIII (1973), p. 164), and in the present memoir he sets forth his knowledge explicitly and in greater detail. He proceeds systematically rather than chronologically in chapters such as “The Practice of Democratic
Centralism” and “Mass Organizations and Front Organizations”. The volume is written in an excellent style.

**Union of Soviet Socialist Republics – Russia**


The present volume is a revised version of the author’s doctorate thesis (Tel Aviv 1978). It is a nuanced account of what happened to the Bund during the eventful year 1917 and the first months of 1918. There was difference of opinion in the organization all the time, but the general trend was one from a Menshevik orientation to the extreme Left. Reinhard Kannonier has contributed a foreword.


The subject of this doctorate thesis (Utrecht 1983) is the various forms of rehabilitation carried out in the Soviet Union after Stalin’s death. The bulk of the people involved, whether alive or dead, were victims of his terror regime. However conceived, the practice of rehabilitation had precious little to do with justice; it was determined and qualified by party-political considerations throughout. The longest and most important part of the volume deals with the posthumous public rehabilitation of Communists who had become unpersons, but who gradually made their re-appearance in publicity, and are even supposed to live “in our midst”. A summary in indifferent English is appended.


“The main aim of the present book [is] to show how such a political system could come into being, how it worked in practice, and what kind of society it created.” Not only is this aim fully realized, but Professor Hosking offers much more, viz., an authentic social history of the common people, who are not seen as passive objects of the Communist regime. The appendices include a bibliography, which could have been prepared with greater care, and a composite index.


Dr Harding, who is the author of a major two-volume study of Lenin’s political thought (cf. IRSH, XXIII (1978), p. 464, and XXVII (1982), pp. 395f.), has compiled the present volume because in his opinion there is a lack of balance in Western literature on Russian Marxism: an “abundance of
“scholarly commentary and biography” is vitiated by a scarcity of translated texts and source materials. The sixty documents collected here cover well-known and less well-known subjects, ranging from Rosa Luxemburg’s “Organisational Questions of Russian Social Democracy” to the programme of the Northern Union of Russian Workers of 1879. All texts are presented in a new translation, also those which were published before in English.


This shortened version of a State-doctorate thesis (Paris, IV, 1979) is the first large-scale study of Nikolaj Ogarev to be written in a Western language. The work comprises three parts: his intellectual biography during the years 1813-56, which of course pays a great deal of attention to the relation with Herzen; an exposition of Ogarev’s thought (philosophy, ethics, aesthetics, Socialism, etc.); and finally a treatise on “Ogarev and the Russian Revolutionary Movement”, which covers the period 1856-77 and discusses, among other things, Zemlja i Volja.


In 1956 Professor Scheibert, a professed Conservative, started publishing a work called Von Bakunin zu Lenin (cf. IRSH, III (1958), p. 528), which unfortunately has remained a torso. The present volume lands us in the middle of Lenin’s dictatorship. Its contents are rendered far better by the subtitle than by the main title. The sufferings of the common people after the October Revolution are enlarged upon in great detail, and the author holds the Communists fully responsible for them. The account is principally based on source materials found in the United States.

OTHER BOOKS
