

associates are inherent in the handbook. First, Soviet political sensitivity has inevitably limited the handbook's topical coverage, one example being the omission of legal statistics, which are not available in any but the most fragmentary form. Second, the general lack of data on the interwar period has necessarily required orienting the handbook toward "modern, post-Stalin data," which are both "more abundant and more reliable than earlier data" (p. 3). Finally, and unavoidably, the quality of data varies in the handbook. The majority is the "hard" data obtained from counting cattle or city hospitals, but in places one finds Soviet estimates (p. 171, table 23), Western estimates to ensure "international comparability" (pp. 91, 93-94, tables 1-7), and even Western "approximations based on educated guessing" (pp. 197, 219-221, table D.1). Given this problem, the editor's covering maxim, "Be aware of the limitations of Soviet data, but take advantage of their increasing variety and amount" (p. 2), is well taken.

Notwithstanding these inherent problems, I would expect Mickiewicz's carefully prepared handbook to become a useful contribution to the continuing evolution of Soviet studies. Toward this end, a paperback edition for classroom adoption would be most welcome.

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THE SOVIET UNION AND THE DEVELOPING NATIONS. Edited by
Roger E. Kanet. Baltimore and London: Johns Hopkins University Press,
1974. xiii, 302 pp. \$12.50.

This collection of ten articles, written by various authors specializing in Soviet foreign relations, surveys the Soviet Union's current policies toward the Third World. The editor begins the volume with a recap of the changing Communist ideological line on the colonial question and the Third World since the 1920s. The opening chapters do not directly introduce the volume but rather stand in contrast to the remaining chapters, which show how little use the ideological rhetoric is in explaining actual Soviet behavior. The articles on the individual areas of Africa, Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America review both the Soviet attitudes as shown in their publications and the course of trade, social, and political relations between the Soviet Union and the individual countries in each area. They provide a useful summary of the known facts about these relations. An exception is the chapter on Africa, which confines itself almost exclusively to the changing attitudes and ideological debates in the Soviet Union and ignores what has been the actual course of relations. It ignores such important questions as the amount of Soviet aid and its limits and the competition between China and the Soviet Union in Africa. The last three chapters deal with the overall view of Soviet economic relations with the Third World, the Soviet Union's relations with the developing states in the United Nations, and the consequences of the Sino-Soviet split on relations with the Third World, particularly as reflected in aid policies. The essay on the United Nations uses primarily an analysis of the voting patterns in the General Assembly to show the shifting balance and support for the Soviet Union and its causes, and Soviet support for Third World issues. It omits a discussion of strategies or particular issues.

The authors of these surveys have neither the space nor information to go into Soviet relations with these areas in any depth. And because they are so close to

the events, they find it difficult to draw conclusions, and therefore confine themselves to a few speculations. The volume does not pursue any particular problems or thesis. Each author has defined his subject and worked independently. The result is a loosely organized summary of Soviet attitudes and policies toward the Third World, useful primarily for the classroom.

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SOVIET-ASIAN RELATIONS. By *Charles B. McLane*. Volume 2 of SOVIET-THIRD WORLD RELATIONS. London: Central Asian Research Centre, 1973. 150 pp. \$15.00. Distributed by Columbia University Press, New York.

This book is really the skeletal framework of a forthcoming major work. The author's stated purpose is to provide regional specialists "with the *record*" (author's italics) of Soviet political, economic, military, and cultural ties with the fourteen non-Communist and underdeveloped countries of Asia, such as India, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Burma, and Thailand. Each of the sections consists of a brief history of bilateral ties, a threefold chronology divided into political, economic, and cultural interactions, footnotes, and short bibliographies. However, the information falls far short of serving the research needs of the specialist.

Omissions and lack of differentiation detract from the volume's value as a reference work. For example, the specific dates of visits or treaties are not given, only the month and year. Thus the researcher has to spend time tracking down the precise date if he wishes to compare, let us say, *Pravda's* treatment of an event with that of key newspapers in the Third World country concerned.

As in volume 1 of this series, which deals with Soviet-Middle East relations, the data are incomplete: many visits and protocols, albeit generally of minor importance, are missed. Thus in the chronology for December 1968 the author lists the Soviet-Indian protocol on aid but neglects the trade protocol, signed the same month. One possible reason for these oversights is the heavy reliance on Soviet sources. Any authoritative record of the interaction of events between the Soviet Union and a Third World country *requires* that the latter's sources be examined as carefully as the former's. Failing this, the book cannot satisfy the needs of specialists or students of international relations who engage in data analysis of events.

The lack of differentiation and the meagerness of detail are puzzling. Professor McLane is too much of a professional to believe the hoary myth that facts speak for themselves, though he seems to have prepared his chronologies on that assumption. Visits are listed with no hint of their relative importance, no mention of whether joint communiqués were issued (an important clue), no identification of the substantive results. A cruiser putting into Bombay (military developments are included in the political section) receives the same attention as Gromyko's visit to New Delhi to sign a treaty, and a trade pact the same as a conference of religious leaders.

This is a thin book in more ways than one.

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