

all industrializing societies: peasant, unskilled labor, factory blue collar, managerial, intelligentsia, and white collar. The main thesis is that the principle of equality is everywhere contradicted by actual inequality—the egalitarianism of Polish society exists mainly in the minds of establishment sociologists. State socialism suffers from Party authoritarianism. The Party rewards loyal managers—competent or not—with special privileges; the resulting clique-ridden bureaucracy can be eradicated by introducing market socialism to replace the authoritarian economic-decision model.

Scholars unfamiliar with Eastern Europe will welcome this book for the freshness of its eyewitness account. But two defects must be pointed out. First, the statistical data in the crucial chapter on economic progress are not presented in readily comparable categories, hence some of the major propositions lack support. For example, the author claims that the distribution of income in Eastern Europe and within the United States has become more equal. Yet Matejko's data fail to show whether it has become more equal or less in Eastern Europe, and American scholars would not agree that income distribution has become more equal in the United States. Second, a number of key terms are defined imprecisely and used inconsistently, hence fruitful cross-national comparisons are difficult, and the causal relation between an authoritarian bureaucracy and any particular degree of income inequality remains undemonstrated.

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PROBLEMY LUDNOŚCIOWE KRAJÓW SOCJALISTYCZNYCH. By
Andrzej Maryański. Warsaw: Państwowe Wydawnictwo Ekonomiczne, 1974.
250 pp. 37 zł., paper.

Population problems of Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, and China, and especially the rationale behind periodic changes in demographic policies pursued in these countries, have received relatively little attention from sociologists and economists. One could well expect, therefore, that Mr. Maryański's book would contribute considerably to a better understanding of these intricate issues. Unfortunately, it does not. His exposition is excessively long on purely descriptive (and scientifically rather indifferent) narration and woefully short on really meaningful analysis. The only redeeming feature of his book is the painstakingly compiled statistical tables (including several with comparative data), which are extremely useful in a field where reliable statistical data are in such short supply.

The major shortcoming of Mr. Maryański's book is the rather blatant, politically-inspired bias permeating the entire exposition. Even by contemporary East European standards, such a quasi-propagandistic, black and white approach, in what purports to be a scientific study, strikes one as both unnecessary and anachronistic. Yet in Mr. Maryański's book the assorted population policies pursued in the Soviet Union (even those of the Stalinist period) are invariably discussed uncritically and the specific solutions applied by Moscow are, almost by definition, fully justified and correct (although the very same policy may be mildly criticized in the chapter on population problems in the East European countries). In contrast, almost everything which pertains to China (including economic aid provided to Third World countries) is discussed in derogatory terms.

In his eagerness to avoid potential political pitfalls, Mr. Maryński deliberately refrains from any meaningful analysis of controversial issues such as changes in the population growth policies adopted by individual East European countries, or their varying attitudes toward legalized abortions. He also fails to deal with the important issues posed by national minorities (in Slovakia, in Rumania, and in the Soviet Union itself, for example) and by postwar population transfers. The author is obviously aware of the significance of these problems, but again, only in the case of China, whose policies on the national minorities question are firmly denounced, does he attempt any analysis or appraisal.

Reading Mr. Maryński's book is a very disappointing and, in places, a rather frustrating experience.

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DOES SOCIALISM LIBERATE WOMEN?: EXPERIENCES FROM EASTERN EUROPE. By *Hilda Scott*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1974. xii, 240 pp. \$7.95.

For those who do not like to be kept in suspense, Scott's answer to the question of whether socialism liberates women is, in brief, no. Socialist ideology has made important contributions to the women's movement by generating and keeping alive ideas that are now widely accepted. But the single family persists, and there has been no transformation of private housekeeping into a social industry. Nor has any socialist country so far developed a theoretical concept or a plan of action.

The book is a rather thorough documentation of this conclusion. Chapter 1, which describes the situation in present-day Czechoslovakia serves as an introduction. Chapters 2 and 3 provide an interesting discussion of socialist ideas about women from Marx and Engels onward, which should be of particular interest to Americans who all too frequently believe that the suffragettes were the only, or certainly the first, people to be concerned with women's rights. Chapters 4 to 9 deal with the status of women as it has developed in Eastern Europe, and particularly in Czechoslovakia, since World War II. The last chapter states the author's conclusions about the relation between socialism and women's liberation.

The most impressive accomplishment of the socialist countries has been the rapid introduction of legislation assuring legal equality for women. There have also been efforts to make social services, such as universal education, health care and day care centers, available. On the other hand, children and the household continue to be regarded almost entirely as the woman's responsibility, and conditions in Eastern Europe make these tasks time and energy consuming. Furthermore, in response to the sharply diminishing birth rate, social and governmental pressures for larger families have been increasing. Thus, women are not in a position to avail themselves of the equal opportunities which the law guarantees.

In order to judge Scott's evaluation of the impact of socialism on the status of women, it would have been useful to have a more systematic presentation of relevant data for Czechoslovakia (there are no tables!), more data on other socialist countries, and a more systematic comparison with nonsocialist countries. In spite of these shortcomings, the book provides a wealth of information and a well-balanced interpretation of the impact of socialism on the status of women. It should provide food for thought both for people who believe that socialism has