

URBAN NETWORKS IN RUSSIA, 1750–1800, AND PREMODERN PERIODIZATION. By *Gilbert Rozman*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1976. x, 337 pp. Tables. Graphs. Maps. \$16.50.

This is the second volume in Gilbert Rozman's long-term study of premodern urban development. In his first book, *Urban Networks in Ch'ing China and Tokugawa Japan*, the accuracy of his model was tested in those two societies. In the current volume, the same model is tested extensively for Russia and less fully for France and England.

In the model, all premodern urban places are classified into seven types, according to population size and the type and degree of administrative or commercial function. The model specifies that there is a sequence in the occurrence of combinations of types of urban places which is so regular that seven stages of premodern urban development can be identified. Not all societies reach the seventh stage. Rozman contends that a society which has reached the seventh stage of premodern urban development before experiencing substantial contact with existing modern societies has a much better chance of successful modernization than a society which, say, is only at the fourth stage when substantial contact begins. The next part of the project, which will appear in later books, is the investigation of the detailed effect of a society's premodern urban structure on its modernization experience.

In the first book, Rozman found that the model accurately described the premodern urban development of Japan and China. In the current work, he finds that the model accurately describes premodern urban development in Russia, England, and France. For example, as the model predicted, premodern urban development is shown to be cumulative; no example was found of a society which regressed from one stage of urban development to a less developed stage.

Examination of Russia, though, shows intricacies which were not originally suspected. Russia's dual capitals, for example, interacted with their hinterland in a much more integrated way than was true in China or Japan. In China or Japan each of any two cities of a size comparable to Moscow or St. Petersburg and separated by a similar distance had a well-defined hinterland to draw upon for commerce. Moscow and St. Petersburg, however, seemed to share a large hinterland, in which the destination of produce was more closely related to specific market conditions in each city than simply which city was closer. This is partially explained by the historic role of the Volga River in transportation.

An explicit concern of this work is: In what sense was Russia backward? From the ninth to almost the end of the eighteenth century, Russia was usually at a less advanced stage of premodern urban development than the other four societies discussed and in that sense was "backward." But once begun (Russia moved from stage one to stage two in the eleventh century), urban development progressed at a faster rate in Russia than in any other society examined. The lack of self-government in Russian cities is shown to be a result of early centralization of control rather than of "backwardness" in a meaningful sense. This centralization probably facilitated urban development generally.

Rozman's research is based primarily on geographical dictionaries and archival sources and is facilitated by his knowledge of the languages and history of Russia, Japan, and China. The notes and bibliography should be useful to the student of Russian urbanization.

The book is not easy to read. The care in documenting findings sometimes loses the reader in a mass of detail, and findings from his earlier book are referred to somewhat cryptically. The first and last two chapters should be read before the middle ones. In the middle chapters, urban development in Russia is examined by region, and if

the reader does not foresee the conclusions Rozman is driving at, it is not always apparent why he concentrates on various details.

I am afraid this book might be ignored by Russian historians because of the general theoretical nature of the model and by urban sociologists because they might wrongly assume the results are relevant only to Russia. Such an outcome would be unfortunate, because this book has a great deal to offer students both of Russia and of economic development.

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IMPERIAL RUSSIA IN FRONTIER AMERICA: THE CHANGING GEOGRAPHY OF SUPPLY OF RUSSIAN AMERICA, 1784–1867. By *James R. Gibson*. *Mikos Pinther*, cartographer. New York: Oxford University Press, 1976. xiv, 256 pp. Illus. Maps. \$10.00, cloth. \$6.00, paper.

The lure of Russian America—Russia's only overseas colony, comprising Alaska, the Aleutian, Pribilof, Commander, and Kurile Islands and impermanent subsidiary developments in Hawaii and California—was fur. The quickly depleted sea otter, primarily, and the more numerous, less valuable, and more slowly reduced fur seal were the inducement for numerous licensed expeditions to, and chartered company exploitation of, the marine fur resources of the northern Pacific after 1740. Distance from the homeland, as western Pacific rookeries were exterminated, made permanent settlement essential and, in view of climatic and manpower limitations on agriculture, regular imported food supplies mandatory.

Gibson's book is a study of the costly, uncertain, and ultimately unresolved search for a reliable, inexpensive food base for the colonies. The Russian-America Company, the designated controlling operation in 1799, originally supplied its "counters" (colonies) from Siberia—by boat down the Lena to Yakutsk and by man- and horse-killing overland pack routes to the port of Okhotsk (and later Ayan). The transpacific route was later supplemented by equally costly and irregular circumnavigations from Kronstadt. Ultimately, however, it was local supply which was essential. The failure of northern agriculture and the Russian-America Company's informal and formal trade arrangements with New England and Hudson's Bay men (who simultaneously were poachers on the fur trade and subverters of controlled natives) and with Californians and Hawaiians are the substance of *Imperial Russia in Frontier America*. It tells little about the fur trade; it does explore in informative detail the changing patterns of trade relations, political geography, and settlement of more than one hundred years of Russia in America.

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NESSELRODE AND THE RUSSIAN RAPPROCHEMENT WITH BRITAIN, 1836–1844. By *Harold N. Ingle*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1976. xii, 196 pp. \$11.75.

Russia's foreign policy in the nineteenth century was remarkably stable. Though ultimately determined by objective conditions of the nation's existence and the will of autocratic tsars, it was shaped and executed throughout most of the century by only two individuals, Count Karl Robert Nesselrode and Prince Aleksandr Mikhailovich Gorchakov. Neither has found a competent biographer, but Nesselrode, who, unlike