

pared while the publication of the Russian edition is still in progress, with English as the language for the Anglo-American cultural region, Spanish for Spain and Latin America, French for France and the French-speaking countries, German for Germany and Central Europe, and so forth.

In order to make the *BSE* a "Sovietica"—the twentieth and twenty-first century's real counterpart of the *Britannica*—a new concept, a new approach, a basic reconsideration, a new "*Denkansatz*" is needed. This is a challenge not only for the editorial staff of the *BSE*, but for lexicographers the world over. The time lags between the publishing dates of the volumes of the third edition could be overcome by careful integration of the annual supplements and regular revisions of the bibliographies on a true international scope.

Third, the various editions of the *BSE*, more than any other encyclopedia, differ in content. The compilers have removed certain articles from succeeding editions and have heavily edited others. Here is a task for the consultants. They should advise Macmillan to publish a supplement to the *BSE* translation in progress, which would indicate the content of articles in previous editions of the *BSE* which were omitted in later editions. Such a volume would be an important contribution to the political and intellectual history of the Soviet Union and an instrument for objective study. It might also include the articles of contributors to previous editions which deserve to be reprinted in spite of omission from later editions. In that respect, I am thinking of articles in the first edition by men such as M. N. Pokrovskii, A. Lunacharskii, S. Ol'denburg, V. Picheta, and others. Such a supplement to the translation of the *BSE*, containing all substantial articles omitted since the first edition, and especially the biographies of those expelled from the columns of the *BSE* either temporarily or forever, is needed to give the Western world a complete Soviet encyclopedia. The National Technical Information Service (Springfield, Va.) acted correctly in extracting, translating, and publishing the biographical material in the first volumes of the *BSE*, but it had to stop this important and useful undertaking when Macmillan acquired exclusive translating rights to the *BSE*. The collection of *BSE* biographies, however, could serve Macmillan as a prototype for a series of *BSE* monographs which would make available to interested readers the bulk of the *BSE* material in their respective fields. Thus, the average reader could obtain, at a reasonable price, a compendium of the scattered contents of the *BSE* in his field of interest and specialization for practical daily use.

The foregoing suggestions, which might help solve the alphabetizing and indexing difficulties found in the complete English translation of the *BSE*, are offered in good faith, but with little hope of realization.

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RUSSIAN CIVILIZATION. By *David A. Law*. New York: MSS Information Corporation, 1975. 490 pp. \$16.00, cloth. \$10.00, paper.

The title of this book is misleading. It is not an analysis or survey of Russian civilization. It is, instead, a disjointed, poorly-written account of a few aspects of Soviet life based on liberal and uncritical reliance on Soviet sources and on the

author's five brief visits to the Soviet Union. The book is also seriously lacking in balance. The entire history of Russia from earliest times to 1917 is dismissed in twenty-nine pages (!) that abound not only in oversimplifications but in glaring errors. The reader is informed, for example, that Kiev was "the first center of Christianity among the Slavs" (p. 57); that Baty was "the nephew of Genghis Khan" (p. 66); that after he built a fleet, Peter the Great "sailed from St. Petersburg to the Black Sea and attacked Azov Fortress from the sea" (p. 74); and that during the reign of Nicholas II "Russian influence in European power circles was limited to France and Albania" (p. 87).

Information on the postrevolutionary period is not much better. Soviet history from 1917 to 1973 is surveyed in thirty-five pages. In contrast, photographs and biographical sketches of members of the Politburo and of the Secretariat receive twenty-nine pages of attention. The book has a few charts indicating the growth of selected sectors of Soviet economy. It also lists all members of the Council of Ministers, courses that are taught in Soviet schools (from first through tenth grade), and has an eight-page enumeration of the departments of the Academy of Sciences. The treatment of these and such other topics as agriculture, industry, transport, living conditions, family relations, and so forth is elementary as well as pedestrian. In short, this book should never have been published in its present form.

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JUSTICE IN MEDIEVAL RUSSIA: MUSCOVITE JUDGMENT CHARTERS (*PRAVYE GRAMOTY*) OF THE FIFTEENTH AND SIXTEENTH CENTURIES. By *Ann M. Kleimola*. Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, new series, vol. 65, part 6, October 1975. Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, 1975. 93 pp. \$5.00, paper.

Professor Kleimola has written a most interesting study based on the trial records and court judgments of the middle Muscovite period. Countering the traditional view that Muscovite justice was venal, arbitrary, and class-ridden, she employs the available documentation to demonstrate that the quality of evidence most frequently determined the decisions. Her conclusion flows from a painstaking analysis of the published records of the surviving judgment charters. These records are complete for the fifteenth century, but not yet for the sixteenth. The footnotes reveal an extensive knowledge of the monographic and periodical literature, at least for that written in English and Russian.

This study stands as the most comprehensive examination of Muscovite trial procedures and the ways in which decisions were reached. Included are such topics as the composition of the courts, the nature of complaints, the reliance upon long-time residents as witnesses, the examination of pertinent documents, and the referral of the trial record to the grand prince's court for review and final judgment. Space limitations do not permit a discussion of the variety of procedures analyzed by Professor Kleimola. Certainly the skillful utilization of documentation drives the reader onward to the inexorable conclusion. The data revealed in these documents suggest that Muscovite justice was judicious and impartial, that judges were mostly unbribable, and that those in the right were vindicated. What