

Zone would exert little or no influence upon the SPD in the Western Zones (which was stridently anti-Soviet and explicitly opposed to the Eastern party's policy of cooperation with the KPD). The rest of this well-told story is an account of SMA pressures and tactics which drove a reluctant SPD and a conspiring KPD into a new coalition known as the Social Unity Party (SED) which, according to the author, was intended by the Soviets as a model for political organization in all of Germany and the rest of Europe.

The author concludes that the experience in East Germany and Soviet efforts to build similar coalitions elsewhere are to be understood "as an important step in the attainment of power by the Communists by a process of inclusion rather than exclusion, by utilization of the state rather than insurrection, and by monopolization of permissible political movements rather than by ideological purity." My only quarrel with this book is its seeming reluctance to impute sinister and aggressive intentions to Soviet authorities, even as the author recounts the constraints imposed by the SMA upon the SPD, which led to the SPD's loss of freedom and, eventually, to dictatorial rule in East Germany. There is a point where the "manipulation" of indigenous political forces recedes into subversion of the democratic process. It occurred in East Germany, as the author ably demonstrates. I only wish he had called the game by its real name.

DONALD P. KOMMERS
University of Notre Dame

THE FORMATION OF A MODERN LABOR FORCE: UPPER SILESIA, 1865–1914. By *Lawrence Schofer*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1975. xvi, 213 pp. Tables. \$12.00.

The process of transition from a traditional agrarian and artisanal community to a modern industrial society is one which has intrigued social scientists since the beginning of the industrial revolution. A vital aspect of this transition is the creation of a labor force for the modern sector which is amenable to conditions of industrial discipline and time orientation, as well as capable of mastering modern technological production tasks. This relatively short volume attempts to detail such a process for one important historical case study, the mining and metallurgical complex in Prussian Upper Silesia from 1865 through 1914.

Based on Professor Schofer's doctoral dissertation (characterized as a "distant relation to this book"), this study makes extensive use of both published and archival materials, the latter having been acquired during research in archives in Bytom, Katowice, Gliwice, and Wrocław in Poland. The work deals almost exclusively with the formerly Prussian area of the Upper Silesian basin, then as now, one of Eastern Europe's most important industrial regions. The Prussian sector (now completely within Poland) was, by far, the largest producing area, and also had excellent records available. The central focus is the coal mining labor force, although ample attention is paid to iron, zinc, and lead mining, as well as iron and steel manufacture and fabrication.

After an initial chapter describing the region and its labor force, the author traces the ethnic and geographic origins of the labor force, and the social and economic aspects of the transition from agriculture to industrial employment. Of particular value are archival documents, especially worker lists from particular mines and smelters, giving information on the origins and characteristics of individual

workers over a period of time. Subsequent chapters (5–9) describe the manner of recruitment of the labor force, management's attempts to ensure a stable and reliable labor supply, and the response of workers to attempts to impose labor discipline and paternalism. In this regard, the relative weakness of worker organizations (including unions and political parties), and the workers' resort to wildcat strikes, frequent job switching, migration, and absenteeism are of greatest interest. Underlying this whole conflict was an ethnic division between the Poles, who made up about 70 percent of the population of the industrial *Kreise* of Oppeln and constituted most of the unskilled and semiskilled workers, and the Germans, who held a disproportionate share of skilled and managerial positions. The author is able to weave these strands together in a readable narrative which also brings to Western readers a great deal of contemporary Polish research on the subject.

MICHAEL R. HAINES
Cornell University

COMMUNIST LOCAL GOVERNMENT: A STUDY OF POLAND. By *Jaroslław Piekalkiewicz*. Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Press, 1975. xiv, 282 pp. \$10.00.

This book, resulting from many years of research (including long stays in Poland), is guided by the proposition that "an understanding of communist politics will never be complete without an investigation of the political process at the local level" (p. 3). I fully agree. Some earlier studies, notably Jerry F. Hough's *The Soviet Prefects: The Local Party Organs in Industrial Decision-Making* (Cambridge, Mass., 1969), demonstrated very well the importance of studying local level politics in a Communist system. Piekalkiewicz gives the Western reader information on the functioning of local government in Poland and clearly refutes the position that everything in the Communist system is centrally directed and nothing is left to local decisions and initiatives. He, therefore, justifies his own effort in studying this aspect of the Polish political system.

The study, unfortunately, suffers from many weaknesses. I am going to limit this analysis to the points that concern the author's research strategy and documentation, leaving aside differences of opinion on more clearly political and ideological issues. Quite obviously, when a Communist scholar reviews a book written by his émigré compatriot, readers must expect substantial disagreements of political opinions, but probably are not particularly interested in them. Methodological issues are, on the other hand, of general concern. Regardless of what the author and the reviewer may think about the character of Poland's political system, they can agree to certain rules of research, one of them being the exploration of all available material. Here, Piekalkiewicz's book presents a mystery. Although he quotes a number of Polish studies (particularly some of the studies carried out by the Institute of Legal Sciences under the direction of Professor Sylwester Zawadzki) and seems to be well informed about the state of research, other important studies are ignored. For example, number 2 of *Problemy Rad Narodowych* (with a synthesis of all-national studies on local government by J. Swiatkiewicz) is not cited, and no reference is made to the cross-national study of local leadership in India, Poland, the United States, and Yugoslavia (*Values and the Active Community*, New York, 1971), when the author speculates whether an increased