

In the third chapter (160-169) the reader is also introduced to the technique and character of the wall paintings, with a discussion of the representations of face and flesh, dress, setting, light and shadow ("no relationship to reality"), and character.

The fourth and final chapter (170-180) deals briefly with the origin and Orthodoxy of the Cretan wall paintings and endeavors to show that "Crete...continued to draw on the great art centers of Orthodoxy for its models, thus precluding any influence that may have come from Western Christendom in the treatment and technique of wall-painting" (p. 171). Centers of Orthodox art such as Asia Minor, Mistra, the Macedonian schools, Mount Athos, Serbia, and Constantinople were continuing sources of inspiration and influence on Cretan wall painters.

*The Byzantine Wall Paintings of Crete* deserves to be in the hands of every student of Byzantine art and culture and should very much attract the attention both of students of art history and medieval history. It is an exemplary work of love and learning and, as such, it should be cherished as well as studied.

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Kenneth Macksey, *The Partisans of Europe in the Second World War*, New York, Stein and Day, 1975, pp. 271.

This book will interest many though it will also disappoint a few. Its critics will fault it for what it is not and for the challenge it presents to cherished dreams. *The Partisans of Europe* does not claim to be a scholarly or definitive treatment of the subject. Its slight bibliography of frequently secondary sources and its casual use of references or quotations without citation will alienate those for whom anything less than documentary material is unacceptable. Furthermore, at a time when urban terror is paraded as guerrilla action Macksey's realistic treatment of partisan activity will deprive the pseudo-partisans of their romantic cover, just as it will shatter the image of great deeds done in the memories of some of the survivors of this savage warfare.

However, once we put aside monograph and myth we are free to deal with an interesting and reasoned treatment of a significant subject—partisan warfare. All who remember the Second World War can recount tales of armed resistance, of small war undertaken in hopes of some greater impact, of raid and ambush, and of reprisal and execution. But how many can say what the jest was worth? Obviously, given the conditions, the men and women most intimately involved had to believe in the efficacy of their gestures for all too often that belief was literally all they had to sustain themselves. They acted knowing that this endangered their lives, their families, their villages. In this context a wire cut, a sentry slain, or a bridge destroyed assumed great significance but the broader picture was missing and it is exactly that broader picture which is provided by this book. Noting the slow development of organized guerrilla resistance to the Germans, Macksey suggests that the Balkans provided Hitler with his first setback and with the first significant partisan formations. While we might argue with the statement that, "By temperament the voluble Balkan people were as much geared to fighting as to talking" (p. 59), or the idea that the Albanians were "a savage people" (p. 159), the intensity of the fighting that continued after the surrender of the formal governments and the manner in which it was carried out do suggest that something different obtained in that region. The Russian experience was also significant though slower in development. In the East, many watched the withdrawal of the Red Army with undisguised relief and only

the racial insanity of the Nazi mentality brought them back into line and into the large formations which Moscow eventually could direct behind German lines. One reference to Russian activity deserves quotation (p. 124):

“There are reports of partisans being dropped in bags from low-flying aircraft into deep snow, their sole additional protection a thick wrapping of hay: there was a parachute shortage”.

The scholar in us will ask for the source of these “reports” but the humanity which we share cries out as to the success of this resupply.

Macksey is a good military historian and writes convincingly of the various formations, organized and independent, that fought across Europe. If his view is too much that of London it does provide a common reference and does lead him to introduce the British SAS—a deep raiding force—as a balance and a measure. While sustained action by small bands of partisans could be more effective than one-time-only strikes by bombers, the author insists that, with the exception of Yugoslavia and Russia, trained and uniformed teams were more effective in hurting the foe than were the larger indigenous guerrilla groups. Again, it was only in Russia and the Balkans that partisans engaged significant numbers of German troops. But in the final analysis, partisans did little to limit the Germans when the Germans were winning. Noting that many European leaders today are ex-partisans, Macksey concludes, “It is indicative that, while a proficient antiguerrilla is often an efficient guerrilla, superannuated guerrillas are among the first to condemn the practice” (p. 258), and thus détente may have its roots in the attitudes drawn from a common partisan experience.

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Marie Lavigne, *The Socialist Economies of the Soviet Union and Europe*, translated by T. G. Waywell, White Plains, N.Y., International Arts and Sciences Press, 1974, pp. 390.

As its title implies, Marie Lavigne's *The Socialist Economies of the Soviet Union and Europe* is an ambitious undertaking. Whether or not it is too ambitious depends on what she hoped to accomplish and the audience she was writing for: as a textbook it is quite successful in that it presents in a clear, reasonably compact manner a substantial amount of known material. It will be valuable to readers (both students and faculty) who are not familiar with the literature on the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. On the other hand, if the book was intended to present to the profession new insights into the nature of these socialist economies, it has not succeeded. Although there are a few instances where the author discusses fundamental conceptual problems inherent in the nature of socialist economies, the book is primarily descriptive rather than analytical.

While Ms. Lavigne's description of the development of socialism is a bit dry, the reader cannot help but be impressed by the amount of detail she presents. In writing about the Russian revolution she cites paragraph numbers as well as the exact date of various decrees; she specifies the number of foreign firms, by country, operating in the Soviet Union in 1922, 1928, and 1936; in an especially data-filled chapter on growth she presents, for each of the socialist countries, statistics on surface area, population, birth and death rates, and a number of other variables.

The chapter on growth is approximately evenly divided between the Soviet Union, on one hand, and the socialist countries of Europe on the other; but in the rest of the book the