

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

C. A. Munkman, *American Aid to Greece: A Report on the First Ten Years*. New York: Frederick A. Praeger, 1958. Pp. 306. \$5.00.

This book is in the nature of a case study in foreign aid. Foreign aid has now become a familiar major issue not only in the United States, but throughout the entire world. C. A. Munkman, a public accountant and a Britisher, argues strongly that foreign aid is much more than a diplomatic or a political issue; it is an economic issue with moral, cultural, and political implications.

Having served four years as chief of a unit in the first U. S. Foreign Aid Program, The United States Economic Mission to Greece, the author also has a decade of experience in foreign aid programs with UNRRA as well as the U.S., and is currently an adviser on financial and accounting relations for the National Iranian Oil Company in Iran. This book, *American Aid to Greece*, purports to be the first unbiased account of what happens to American aid dollars overseas. Seen in this light, this is a book that should be examined by every American taxpayer as well as by every country receiving or granting foreign aid.

American Aid to Greece is based on approximately one hundred reports made while the author was actually engaged in the American aid program. In addition to the story and mechanics of aid programs, plus a short account of Greece and the plan of American aid, the author concentrates his attention on actual aid projects: agricultural, major reclamation works, power and industry, agricultural development through well-drilling, health services, transportation services, housing, animal grazing and producing, seafaring, and various other programs. Included in this book are discussions of administration, the relationship of aid administrators to the government involved, the proper understanding necessary for successful programs, a program evaluation, and suggestions for planning aid to underdeveloped countries.

Though Munkman points out carefully the facts as he sees them, he is fundamentally concerned with seeing the establishment of aid programs that are *economically* useful to and feasible for the countries aided. He is as much distressed by native politicking as he is by American Congressional and governmental short-sightedness. For Munkman foreign aid is much more than a political program. Aid policies pursued in the past have resulted in the wastage of huge amounts of the American taxpayer's money, much of which was due to careless long-range planning by the Americans themselves. "The initial cause lies in the people who originally voted the aid. With the appropriation voted yearly, the beneficiary countries and the Mission planners have always been faced with the problem of committing it before the fi-

nancial year's end. Failure to do so might result in the loss of funds, and almost certainly in a cut in next year's allocation" (p. 284).

Next it is pointed out that advance planning must be worked out meticulously, particularly since most of the planning requires construction, but construction is only the beginning, not the end of the process. Much of the aid waste has been due to construction that has not been followed up with technical assistance and funds for the operation and maintenance of what has been constructed.

Staffing is another vital problem that needs attention. This involves well-paid technical assistants and assistance, which should and can be drawn from non-American as well as American sources. Aid, Munkman is careful to point out, is a relationship between friends. Too often Americans fail to take the time to understand their foreign friends, and too often they are impatient with them. It is often much more than sending experts to do a certain job: "A top expert is not essential, a good teacher in the best sense is. Even more important is a sympathetic mind, which can grasp the virtues of the world, and the great glories of the Creator in the diversity of man. To attempt to create another little America in every country is driving flatly against man and God. Unfortunately it is repeatedly and continuously attempted, with a consequent enormous wastage in technical assistance funds. The only compensating fact is that the little seed that does bear fruit becomes a rich harvest" (p. 248).

Munkman insists that to think of foreign aid in short-range terms is ill-advised, if not dangerous. Munkman believes that Americans should recognize the fact that we are committed to such a program for at least fifty years (p. 288). Americans must also recognize the need for a stable, well-paid and experienced civil service staff to carry out the program effectively.

American Aid to Greece is now an even more important document than it was when it was originally published in 1958. The question of foreign aid will come up again and again. If the United States is to make the best use of its resources for combatting Communism and for maintaining the free way of life in this turbulent world, its officials and the American people would do well to examine Munkman's analysis carefully, and to profit by past experience. The United States will have to learn that proper diplomacy involves much more than political considerations or political expediency. Munkman's book helps point the way.

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Philip Sherrard, *Athos: The Mountain of Silence*. London: Oxford University Press, 1960. Pp. 110. 57 illustrations, with color photographs by Paul DuMarchie V. Voorthuysen. 50 s. net (in U.K. only). \$ 12.50 (in the U.S.A.).

This is the first of a new series of scholarly, illustrated books in color on selected places. It is perhaps highly fitting that the series should begin with the ancient monastic center of Eastern Orthodox