

Feridun Cemal Erkin, *Les relations Turko-Soviétiques et la question des Detroits*. Ankara, Turkey : Basnur Matbaasi, 1968. Pp. 540.

The basic purpose of this fundamental work is to delineate the question of the Turkish Straits in its juridical, political, military and economic development, especially from the period of the Montreux Convention of July 20, 1936 down to the present. Mr. Erkin brings to his study, essentially written during the mid-1950s, not only the knowledge and wisdom of a Turkish statesman — as a Political Director and Secretary-General in the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador and Foreign Minister — long and directly concerned with all the problems involved in Soviet-Turkish relations, but the thought and reflection which come from much study.

While the study rightly concentrates on the contemporary period, the first chapter (69 pages) provides a broad *précis* of the question of the Straits from the most anciens of days, beginning with the Trojan Wars, traces it through the Ottoman period, down to and including the Lausanne Convention (1923), and gives the reader historical setting and perspective. Then follow chapters on the Montreux Conference and Convention (1936), the legal status of the Straits after Montreux, the evolution of the international situation to 1939, the Turko-Soviet negotiations during September-October 1939, Turkish nonbelligerence during World War II, the problem of Turkish entry into the war, the post-war Soviet-Turkish crisis, and the Soviet-Turkish exchange of notes concerning the Straits during 1946. Mr. Erkin's conclusion not only carries the basic story down to date, but sets forth his general observations on the international scene. An appendix reproduces fourteen documents which include the Montreux Convention and the exchange of notes during 1946 among Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, France and the Soviet Union. There is also a well-selected bibliography.

Mr. Erkin's study is noteworthy both because it is an historical disquisition dealing with the history of a most complex and important problem and a personal memoir delineating the author's broad and direct experience in connection with it. The student of Soviet policy will find it extremely interesting to read the account of the Soviet-Turkish negotiations in Moscow during September-October 1939, when the Soviet leaders sought to prevent the conclusion of the Anglo-Franco-Turkish alliance which ultimately was signed on October 19. He will

also find of much interest Mr. Erkin's story of the subsequent Soviet-German pressures relative to the general Turkish position in the war, and the problem of the Straits. Of equal interest is the account, from the Turkish viewpoint, of the pressures to bring Turkey into the war on the part of the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union, a matter concerning which there will be differences of view, in which the United States was not much interested, in view of its concentration on Operation OVERLORD. Similarly, Mr. Erkin's account of the crisis in Soviet-Turkish relations, when the Soviet Union demanded the cession of the Kars-Ardahan area of Eastern Anatolia and control of the Turkish Straits, is of compelling interest.

Mr. Erkin has added to our knowledge in all the matters with which he deals, and he adds the personal touch to his knowledge. He holds that the Montreux Convention, to this day, perhaps with technical changes to meet the needs of changing time and circumstance, provides the basic solutions to the old problems of freedom of the Straits and Turkish security, and he insists on the highly strategic character of the area, vital to the security of the Turkish Republic. He has no illusions as to the enduring character of Imperial Russian and Soviet ambitions, but hopes for a better world in which peaceful adjustments may be made. He is also firmly committed to Turkish ties with NATO and the United States and attachment to the West. His book, which should take its place among the outstanding works on the subject, should be widely read and pondered by all students of the problem of the Turkish Straits and of the relations between Turkey and the Soviet Union.

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I. Deter, *Das neugriechische Volkslied*, Munich, Ernst Heimeran Verlag, 1968. Pp. 100.

This a book written by a non-specialist with non-specialist readers in mind, and displaying great affection for its subject, the Greek folk-song. In a brief introduction the author first sets out the framework of her study. Two parallel but quite independent streams, she points out, run through the long history of the Greek language from the period of