

A Short History (1940). Meanwhile, the problem remains and one may bear in mind that, after all, «What's past is prologue».

Bethesda, Maryland

HARRY N. HOWARD

Peter Bender, *East Europe in Search of Security* (The Johns Hopkins University Press, for the International Institute for Strategic Studies, London), 1972, pp. 144, Translated from the German by S. F. Young.

This paperback by a reporter of the West German newspaper *Westdeutsche Rundfunk* attempts to portray to western readers the European scene as viewed by the people and governments of the German Democratic Republic (G.D.R.), Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Bulgaria.

Much of what he writes is not new; the western man on the street has at least a vague notion of how the allurements of his living standards and personal liberties threaten the stability of communist dictatorships by force of living example. Bender, however, without in any way apologizing for the shortcomings of the aforementioned regimes, writes so cogently that even the general reader comes to appreciate the viewpoint of the «other side».

Perhaps Bender's greatest contribution is his emphasis on how the various Warsaw Pact nations differ from each other in virtually every way, and how the attitude of the USSR differs towards each in turn. While historical background plays some part in these considerations other factors such as geography (especially as regards proximity to NATO nations and/or to the USSR), degree of industrial development, and the state of international solidarity at any given time are probably more important.

The source materials are mostly political speeches and press articles most of which are in German but which also include a few in Czech and Polish. He seems to rely on his general knowledge and authoritative secondary sources for the historical background while using primary materials for the contemporary scene, albeit mostly in German translation. It should be mentioned that S. F. Young's translation of the book into English is a masterpiece of succinctness and clarity.

While lack of space precludes the details necessary to make any survey meaningful, some cogent facts might include the following: the USSR dangled the prospect of German unification before West Germany by using its ally, the German Democratic Republic as bait until 1955 when Bonn integrated with NATO, that Poland and Rumania enjoy greater autonomy because both are isolated from the West geographically, that while Czechoslovakia resented Russian intervention on August 21, 1968, it resented the U.S.S.R.'s use of German troops even more, that Hungary is once again considered the most «right of center» of all Warsaw Pact nations now that Czechoslovakia is whipped into line, and that Bulgaria, though relatively unimportant to Russia, enjoys most favored nation status with the U.S.S.R. and takes full advantage of it.

The format can be criticized in only minor details. But while the excellent table of contents coupled with the book's brevity perhaps precludes an index, a glossary of the numerous abbreviations would be most desirable both for the general reader and undergraduate students of limited background. Otherwise, it is interesting reading with the younger set as my classroom experience confirms.

The University of Wisconsin
La Crosse

W. G. VETTES