

Many other issues are raised in this volume, not all of them dealt with satisfactorily. But there is still information to be had on the varying East European perspectives on regional cooperation, on nationalism, on the German question, on China. Lawrence Whetten's chapter on "The Military Dimension" is a useful review of the technical and political background to the mutual force reductions talks. Whetten's question,

"Will the USSR be able to convert the mainly political CSCE into a peace conference codifying the results of World War II largely on Soviet terms, while minimizing Western demands for military disengagement as the price for normality by delay and tactical maneuvering?" (76).

remains open as we go into the second CSCE. Prior notification of military maneuvers cannot take the place of a lasting arms control agreement. The United States indeed recognizes *de facto* if not formally the existing borders in Eastern Europe and is now putting its money in Basket Three while trying without much success to get on with the SALT talks. The CSCE took three years, from the preparatory talks until the promulgation of the Final Act. Two of the Act's basic principles have collided—as they were bound to collide—nonintervention in the internal affairs of states, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. This collision provides the background for the resumption of talks in Belgrade, while the basic military issues remain as unresolved in 1977 as they were in 1972.

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A Library of Literary Criticism: Modern Slavic Literatures, vol. II, *Bulgarian, Czechoslovak, Polish, Ukrainian and Yugoslav Literatures*, Compiled and edited by Vasa D. Michailovich, Igor Hájek, Zbigniew Folejewski, Bogdan Czaykowski, Leo D. Rudnytsky, Thomas Butler, New York, Frederick Ungar, 1976, pp. xvi + 720.

The companion volume to *Russian Literature* (1972), this book provides an unusual kind of information about twentieth century writers of Slavic Europe. Instead of schematic biographies, it quotes critical opinions about writers and books. The purpose here is double: to provide a different kind of perspective than one found in encyclopedias and histories, and to reflect the concerns and methods of critics who responded to the works in question. The editors selected passages from the best critics they could find and presented them to the reader without an attempt to reconcile divergent opinions—indeed, sometimes focusing on controversy. E.g., the section on the Czech writer Josef Škvorecký tells the story of his novel *Zbabeľci* [*The Cowards*] which was first blasted by stalinist critics and later declared a landmark in Czech fiction. I wish more such polemics were included—e.g., one that arose around the Polish novelist Henryk Sienkiewicz. However, not every author has been subject of a major controversy and could be presented in a dramatic way. Critical comments about some Eastern European writers have been consistently descriptive and this is evident in the present volume.

By and large, the writers of Eastern Europe have spent less time probing the inner life of man than their Western colleagues. Instead, they devoted more time to social life and to language experimentation. This opinion of mine was confirmed by the selections in this book. The critics quoted tend to recognize writers not as lonely individuals who express the ineffable in man but as workers in language and in the social field. The editors tried to avoid what might be called patriotic criticism, yet in dealing with this part of the world it could not altogether be omitted. Many Eastern European writers and critics take it for granted that na-

tional identity is one of the strongest human values. Familiarity with their views is crucial for understanding Eastern European nationalities.

The sections on national literatures are uneven in length. The number of writers included reflects the international status of a given literature. The shorter the section, the more emphasis there is on the social role of the writer.

There are also writers here whose concerns and quality deserve much more international recognition than they have got. In spite of a sprinkling of Nobel laureates and winners of other international literary prizes, the volume may serve as a reminder that a writer's chances to influence our way of looking at the world depends a great deal on the language in which he writes.

Excerpts from critical essays usually range between two and four hundred words. Their number (from three to seven or more) depends on the status of the writer. In spite of their brevity they are well rounded; they usually deal with one issue rather than being overviews. The critics come from East and West, and they vary considerably in quality and outlook. Eastern European critics of the 1940's and 1950's tend to be much less interesting than those of the 1960's and 1970's owing to ideological rigidity that prevailed in the earlier period. Some of the critics of the 1930's seem outdated: apparently certain kinds of criticism age rather quickly. Many Western critics marvel over the brutality and violence in some of the stories and novels they read (e.g., those of Miodrag Bulatović, Miroslav Krleža, Marek Hlasko); since Western literatures are likewise perceived as full of violence by Eastern European critics, I wondered at the differences in sensibility which make one pass over the familiar forms of violence and be shocked at the unfamiliar ones.

This is a successful enterprise. It gives a better idea about the quality of a writer than traditional surveys, and it provides an insight into the intellectual and artistic climate of Eastern Europe. It also rescues from oblivion some excellent criticism which would otherwise be forgotten. About the only thing I missed was structuralist and post-structuralist criticism which has been quite strong in Eastern Europe but which is skimpily represented.

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Adam Zwass, *Monetary Cooperation between East and West*, White Plains, N.Y., International Arts and Sciences Press, Inc., 1975, pp. 265.

This valuable addition to the fast growing literature of the East-West economic relations was originally published in 1974 as *Zur Problematik der Währungsbeziehungen zwischen Ost und West*. Neither the original title nor its translation do justice to the content of the book which actually is a more comprehensive treatment of East-West Trade. In fact, only the last two chapters deal directly with the topic suggested by its title, while throughout, the discussion is broadened to include the examination of East-West and intra-CMEA trade relations.

This approach makes for a well-integrated discussion of the cause-effect relationship between the monetary problems and the underlying real processes in the Eastern bloc. In so doing, the author stresses the implications of inconvertibility of the CMEA currencies for the formation of prices domestically and, therefore, the limited role of exchange rates in East-West trade. This point of circular causation, i.e., lack of rational pricing, meaningless exchange rates and inconvertibility in the CMEA countries is of central importance in the book. And while it serves the purpose of providing the basis for the better understanding of East-West monetary problems, this is done at the expense of considerable repetition and some lack of