

## Book Reviews

Richard F. Starr, *Communist Regimes in Eastern Europe*, Hoover Institution Press, Stanford University, Cal., 1977, pp. 302.

This third edition updates Starr's monographs, which had appeared in earlier editions during December 1967 and April 1971 (both of these are now out of print). The aim of this revised book is to serve as an introduction to the source materials that are available for study of this complicated part of the world. Besides the changes in the text, the tables have been revised, and the bibliography has been updated.

The data, in large part, have been extracted from articles and books in the original East European languages. Albanian, Hungarian, and Romanian sources were mostly in translation, as the footnotes indicate.

Transcripts from monitoring by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Foreign Broadcast Information Service, apparently proved most useful, as *Situation Reports* and other materials from *Radio Free Europe* (abbreviated as RFE in the text), and Central Intelligence Agency *Directories* were used for some of the identification, especially for purposes of establishing interlocking directorates.

The book is organized into 11 chapters. The first eight treat individually the countries of Eastern Europe under communist rule. Each covers the governmental structure, including the constitutional framework and the electoral system; the ruling party, called variously a communist, socialist, or workers' movement; domestic policies, and foreign relations. The last three chapters incorporate an area-wide approach, discussing military and economic integration through the Warsaw Treaty Organization and the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance (COMECON), together with developments in intrabloc party relations.

As a supplementary publication to several other studies dealing with the same field, this reference book has its value. It is, however, regretful that the bibliography is not arranged by countries but by listing all the authors alphabetically.

All in all, this is quite a good reference work which uses more or less a legalistic approach and which can be found especially useful if used in conjunction with Richard F. Starr, Ed., *Aspects of Modern Communism* (University of South Carolina Press, 1968), since the latter was especially good on the dynamic aspects of the communist world.

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Deno John Geanakoplos, *Interaction of the "Sibling" Byzantine and Western Cultures in the Middle Ages and Italian Renaissance (330-1600)*, New Haven and London, Yale University Press, 1976, pp. xxii + 416 + Frontispiece + 17 plates + 5 maps.

Professor Geanakoplos of Yale University is an internationally acknowledged scholar of Byzantine and Renaissance Studies, with a special competence and interest in the relations of the Byzantine East with the Latin West. Geanakoplos's insistence that we study mediaeval history as a whole may now sound obvious but it was not always so. Dr. Geanakoplos is certainly consistent in his approach and this latest book of his bears this out. He has also become aware of the importance of sociological research in this regard, as indicated clearly in his