

Maurice Pearton, *Oil and the Romanian State*, London, Oxford University Press, 1971, pp. xviii + 361, 80s. net, \$ 13.00.

Although available for four years, this scientific analysis of Romania's petroleum treasure and the roles it has played in a century of Romanian politics is now very timely. What OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) is currently undertaking, namely the exploitation of their petroleum resources for personal advantages, is markedly similar to the policies formulated and implemented by a variety of political regimes within Romania since the beginning of the 20th century. As is typical of the Middle East oil potentates today, Romanian politicians once thought of their nation's oil as a source of wealth rather than as a part of the world oil industry (p. 325). This history of Romania's most valuable natural resource could serve as a text for petroleum potentates since the latter are presently pursuing a similarly narrow and futile course in attempting to influence world politics.

When Romania's president Ceaușescu visited Washington during the summer of 1974 he was asked whether the oilfields of his nation could somehow compensate for the piracy engaged in by the Middle East oil producers. The Romanian communist leader lamented the diminishing quantity of his high-octane oil and confirmed what all knew, namely that Romania no longer produces sufficient petroleum for her own needs. Why Romania has depleted her major resource is the chief topic of the Pearton study. This excellent analysis candidly reveals the greed of the industrialized powers who, lacking petroleum deposits in their European territories, plotted to interfere in Romanian politics so that their oil-powered industries could secure cheap fuel. When Romania's politicians awoke to the real value of oil, a very significant factor in the political maneuverings of the First and Second World Wars, that small nation became and remained an extremely vital force in international politics and economics. Alas, today Romania, whose energy resources are probably the first to be depleted—an inevitable fate for other energy resources in other nations—finds herself more than ever before a have-not nation in the growing interdependent group of industrialized states.

Mr. Pearton has produced the best possible study of Romanian oil and its related politics. His analysis and conclusions cannot be revised unless and until confidential archives in Romania are accessible to alien scholars. Until such halcyon days arrive, readers must be satisfied with Pearton's findings, among which is the ironic view that even a decline in foreign investments and an associated nationalization of the petroleum industry failed to promote nationalism or increase the national wealth. This British volume might prove quite instructive for those who contemplate similar moves from similar motives.

*Russell Sage College*

SHERMAN D. SPECTOR

Andrei Simic, *The Peasant Urbanities. A Study of Rural-Urban Mobility in Serbia*, New York, Seminar Press, 1973, pp. 180, appendix, glossary, bibliography, index, illustrations, \$ 9.50.

This is a unique volume, an anthropological case study approach to urbanization in Yugoslavia. In the preface E. A. Hammel describes the author as bringing to the research, «a childhood bilingualism . . . and a lifetime of participant observation in the culture of