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Ideology and Power in Soviet Politics

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BOOKS

Seton-Watson, Hugh. *The New Imperialism*. Chester Springs, Pa.: Dufour Editions, 1961. 136 p.

Hugh Seton-Watson, one of the foremost writers and lecturers on communism and the Soviet Union, places in full perspective the true nature of the theory and practice of communism with relation to its extraterritorial aggrandizement. The new imperialism of Russia is developed from that country's beginnings as the Principality of Moscow in 1261 to its present immense and growing stature. Short and well organized, *The New Imperialism* is excellent basic reading to gain an understanding of the significance of the U.S.S.R. and the Communist Party, Soviet Union, in the current power struggle between East and West.

Teller, Edward with Brown, Allen. *The Legacy of Hiroshima*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1962. 325 p.

Dr. Teller has combined into one volume an autobiographical narrative of his role in nuclear weapon development, a résumé of the arguments that support his views on a number of public issues, including the future of scientific achievement and a statement of his belief that the 'legacy of Hiroshima' has been a complex of fear and guilt that has dangerously distorted public opinion away from fact and weakened public determination to see democratic liberalism guide the affairs of mankind. The reader may take exception to some of the author's views, but will not fail to be awed and inspired by the broad sweep of this man's concern for the problems of the world.

Jackson, Barbara (Ward). *The Rich Nations and the Poor Nations*. New York: Norton, 1962. 159 p.

Barbara Ward Jackson, the well-known British economist, has here set forth in lay language the vital importance to the Atlantic Community of helping poor nations develop. She describes this age as the most revolutionary of all, portraying four aspects of revolution: those of equality, of the possibility of material change leading to a better world, of rising birth rates and of rapid scientific change.

Brzezinski, Zbigniew K. *Ideology and Power in Soviet Politics*. New York: Praeger, 1962, 180 p.

The author of the five essays that make up this short book says that his purpose is to stimulate thought and not to convince. Dr. Brzezinski, who is an eminent authority in the field of Soviet bloc affairs, is adept at postulating comprehensive definitions of the terms he uses. These definitions of the

author give points of departure for the discussions that serve to show how ideology and power are linked together in the Soviet scheme of controlling the masses. Frequent comparisons are made between Czarist and Soviet Russia. Three of the essays deal with the internal aspects of Russian politics, and two with Russian international affairs. The essays, together with the extensive footnoting, provide a valuable insight into Russian application of ideology and power.

Keller, Werner. *East Minus West : Zero*. New York: Putnam, 1962. 384 p.

The author explains in lavish detail that Russian power, great as it is, has always been, and is now, relatively weak when compared with that of the West as a whole. The reason for this is that the West is the prime source of the Russians' power. They contribute no new ideas of their own, but borrow or steal all of their ideas from the West. The atom bomb, the rocket, the jet airplane are but a few of the Russian developments of the current generation that have been totally derived from Western intellect. This pattern existed during the reigns of the Ivans, Peter the Great, Catherine II and successors, and still exists. The Russians excel beyond all comparison at copying the works of others. The author believes that Russia lacks the basic potential—educated, free men in numbers approaching those of the West—and can never catch up on its own; though by devoting vast effort and energies to specific projects, it may occasionally lead the West in certain fields. He concludes by admonishing the West that whether Russia overtakes the West will be decided by the West itself, and the attitude it adopts toward Russia in the light of the Russians' past behavior. 'There is only one way of dealing with a power like Russia, and that is the way of courage.'—Karl Marx, 1853.

Cressey, George B. *Soviet Potentials; a Geographic Appraisal*. Syracuse, N.Y.: Syracuse University Press, 1962. 232 p.

The author, who has crossed Siberia seven times, points out the effect of the great distances within the Soviet Union on utilization of resources and world trade. The center of Soviet production, for example, is 6000 rail or 4000 air-line miles from the center of consumption in China. The distance from the Polish frontier to Vladivostok equals that from San Francisco to London. What is not so obvious, but of basic importance, is that most of this vast country lies in the latitude of Canada rather than of the United States. The great water bodies of the southern Soviet Union, such as the Black, Caspian and Aral Seas, lie on a parallel with the Great Lakes of North America. Those parts of the Union that resemble the United States correspond to Montana, the Dakotas and Nevada. Nowhere does the Soviet Union have a Mississippi Valley, an Iowa or an Ohio. Only small parts are really good, and much of their best farmland is inferior to that of