

is the inclusion of long quotes from contemporary primary sources which are often more evocative than any commentary. They are, however, unevenly distributed and more would have been welcome, especially if made to stand out typographically. If I hesitate to recommend it for translation, it is because it is specifically written for and explicitly addressed to a German-reading public (which is broader than Germany, Austria and Switzerland). But teachers of Balkan history should consult this volume with profit.

Robert W. Pringle (ed.): Historical Dictionary of Russian and Soviet Intelligence, 2nd ed., Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield 2015, 448 p.

Reviewed by
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Russia matters! And its intelligence matters even more. Nowadays, when The Economist's cover page portrays the Russian president Vladimir Putin as an octopus spreading his arms in different directions and titles the caricature as "The Meddler. How Russia menaces Western democracies"¹, every well-researched publication on the history, evolution, goals and key actors of the Soviet and post-Soviet Russian intelligence community is welcomed.

Robert W. Pringle authored the second edition of his seminal "Historical Dictionary of Russian and Soviet Intelligence" in the prominent series "Historical Diction-

ary of..." with Rowman & Littlefield in 2015. The encyclopedically structured monograph offers an interesting introduction into the topic and several hundreds of notions related to the Soviet and Russian secret services, their home and abroad operations, failures and victories. Pringle himself is a retired CIA officer and is an expert on East European intelligence. He is not only a scholar working on Russian security sector but he has his own experience of work in the field of intelligence and counterintelligence. Perfectly aware of Soviet Russian history, the development of the ill-famed NKVD, KGB and of other organizations, Pringle succeeded in telling the history of the Russian intelligence community in the context of Soviet-Western interactions. The Historical Dictionary focuses not only on the key spymasters and defectors from Moscow engaged in the famous operations like Manhattan Project, TRUST a.o. but also on KGB's institutional and educational infrastructure like the Andropov Institute nearby Moscow as well as on the great Russian critics of Stalinism like the poetess Anna Akhmatova.

Pringle's book is of significance for students of Soviet history and of Russian politics. Those interested in the Stalinist period, would find biographical data on key personnel of Soviet secret services boosted and repressed by Stalin. In a detailed way, Pringle describes the Soviet practice of the so called "active measures" aimed at disinformation and spread of false news. The Soviet authorities disseminated "fake news" depicting U.S. and its European allies as particularly hawkish and themselves as peace-loving after the end of the World War II. In the 1980s, Moscow-backed

propaganda linked the AIDS to the allegedly strategy of CIA to combat the population of African continent damaging America's image in the developing countries. Along with the almost 350-page long Historical Dictionary, there are ten appendixes on the evolution of Soviet State Security, KGB Chairs from 1917 to 1991 as

well as on the Chiefs of Soviet and Russian Foreign Intelligence since 1920 and other related issues. The bibliography delivers a well-researched 50-page list with mostly English and Russian top publications on the topic.

Notes:

- 1 The Economist, February 24th–March 2nd 2018.