

others. Figure 1 should have indicated clearly that the depths are in metres and not fathoms, although if one had followed the text it would have been obvious what unit was used.

I could not detect a single typographical error in the book — which is something of a rarity these days.

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**REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE USSR. TRENDS AND PROSPECTS/LE DEVELOPPEMENT REGIONAL EN URSS. TENDANCES ET PERSPECTIVES.** Edited by THE ECONOMICS DIRECTORATE AND INFORMATION DIRECTORATE, NATO COLLOQUIUM 25-27 April 1979, Brussels, Newtonville, MA; Oriental Research Partners, 1979. 293 pages.

Analysis of regional development in the USSR has become an important component of western attempts to gauge the overall performance of the Soviet Union and the extent to which its economic growth is affected by spatial variation in natural resources, ethnicity, labor supply, and rates of population increase. The colloquium which generated *Regional Development in the USSR* was an important gathering of scholars engaged in many facets of Soviet-related social-scientific research; this volume includes some of the most active investigators of Soviet regional development, although many of the topics covered in the monograph have been more thoroughly investigated in recent volumes published by Halsted Press and in the Discussion Papers generated by the Association of American Geographers Project on Soviet Natural Resources in the World Economy. Nevertheless, publication of *Regional Development in the USSR* is timely because many of its chapters touch on themes underlying important domestic and international actions of the USSR.

The monograph contains an introductory synthesis and five major sections, each of which comprises several substantive chapters and related discursive comments. The major sections of the book relate to regional living standards, autarky and regional investment, labor force and regional raw material development, transportation and the military significance of regionalization, and trade aspects of regionalization. The introduction by James Ellis and Theodore Shabad and the summary by Alec Nove could be read independently of the substantive sections by scholars with diverse interests wishing to understand the chief objectives in, and motives

behind, Soviet regional development. The major sections, however, appear to be oriented toward a specific audience.

The sections on regional living standards, autarky and regional investment are concerned with what might be termed "conventional topics of regional analysis" rather than with issues of some urgency such as those found in the remaining three substantive sections. Nevertheless, these two sections set the stage for subsequent analysis by probing the extent to which living standards and productive investment vary among regions; they also present considerable amounts of data, useful for those readers unable to consult the widely available published Russian sources from which the data have been extracted. These two sections are scholarly and relatively non-controversial.

The remaining three sections, however, directly tackle many of the issues currently of great concern to numerous western analysts: demographic variations among regions and races, exploitation of Siberia, construction of the Baykal-Amur Mainline, and the relationship between foreign trade and domestic regional development. Assessment of the importance of each of these topics is far from being unanimous, especially because many of the underlying factors have not been publicized by Soviet leaders and because the variables associated with each topic are sufficiently diverse to elicit partisan opinions from those analyzing them. The juxtaposition of chapters and comments in these three sections enhances the value of the monograph by permitting the reader quickly to consider different points expressed in the form of argument and counter-argument. The monograph thus preserves the excitement of presentation and debate which must have prevailed at the NATO colloquium itself.

The reproduction of the verbal presentations, however, while enhancing the intellectual quality of the viewpoints expressed, greatly detracts from the scholarly merits of the volume because the language is mainly vernacular, the text contains a large number of typographical errors, and the styles of presentation do not follow a standard format for naming regional units or for identifying the academic qualifications of contributors. The book desperately needs an effective editor to remove the verbosity of the original verbal presentations, to integrate textual observations and tabular (or cartographic) information, and to eliminate the physical defects which severely detract from the quality of the presentations. If the contributors to this volume were not widely known and highly revered, the reader might be tempted to conclude that the sloppy physical form of the monograph also applied to those whose ideas are contained be-

tween its covers. Fortunately, the credentials of the contributors are impeccable and one sympathizes with the anguish they probably feel that the professional care necessary to transform their manuscripts and oral presentations into acceptable published scholarly form was not forthcoming.

One technical defect overshadowing all others illustrates the haphazard manner in which the monograph was produced. The last nine paragraphs (pp. 99-102) of Alan Abouchar's analysis of Soviet regional industrial policies in the 1970's suddenly crop up verbatim as the final one-third (pp. 182-184) of Tony Scanlan's comments on the Yakutia Natural Gas Project. While this error is extreme relative to others in the book, it is nevertheless inexcusable.

Notwithstanding its technical imperfections and diverse foci, *Regional Development in the USSR* is an important current source of information and assessment concerning Soviet regional development. Although its utility will likely fade quickly as more substantive analyses appear in the 1980's, this volume should find application now as a useful statement on the major objectives of Soviet regional planning and the importance of labor, transportation, Siberia, and foreign trade in constraining the drive by the USSR to expand its industrial spatial economy.

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**ATHAPASKAN WOMEN: LIVES AND LEGENDS.** By JULIE CRUIKSHANK. Ottawa: National Museum of Canada, 1979 (National Museum of Man Mercury Series, Canadian Ethnology Service Paper No. 57). 202 pages. Gratis.

Traditionally, the Yukon Territory has been virtually neglected by anthropologists. However, in the last decade some good anthropological literature has appeared. Julie Cruikshank's selection of excerpts from biographies of Athapaskan women is an important contribution to this literature. The excerpts include information on daily and mythological events which the women feel are important to their lives.

Part I discusses purposes and the methods of the project. The aims of this project were: (1) to compile biographies of seven Athapaskan women; (2) to record history and mythology as perceived by these women; and (3) to provide insight into the impact of "northern development" on the lives of the Athapaskan people. Her approach was one of partnership, which brought her closer to her informants and allowed

the women to consider the end product their own, rather than the work of some social scientist. I consider this section beneficial to students of anthropology, and would like to see more researchers discuss their field techniques.

Part II emphasizes the traditional Athapaskan women in the Yukon Territory. This section consists of excerpts from the women's narratives concerning childhood, puberty, marriage, naming, childbirth, daily activities, yearly cycle, power and healing, medicines, animals, bushmen, death and dying, potlatches, technology and foodstuffs. Here Cruikshank demonstrates the fairly routine life cycle which once was necessary for the Athapaskan women to fulfill their vital economic role in the traditional society. In addition, these excerpts include information concerning the changes which began to occur during the early decades of this century.

Part III is similar to Part II, but emphasizes the changes which occurred in women's lives during the twentieth century. The author's selection of excerpts demonstrates the change from a rigid life cycle, with few choices, to a fluctuating life cycle with numerous social and economic choices. These changes are related to the influx of whites during the 1896 gold rush and the construction of the Alaska Highway during the 1940's.

Versions of myths and legends concern Cruikshank in Part IV. These stories are divided into four groups: (1) the cycle of stories, (2) the complicated narrative; (3) the traditional narrative adapted to historical themes; and (4) the short story. The first group includes a series or cycle of stories on Crow, Beaver, and the Two Smart Brothers. The second group consists of 'complete-in-themselves' short stories. Included here are incomplete or abbreviated versions of longer stories, as well as stories about the origin of some material object or place name. Part IV is of particular ethnological importance. Like Parts II and III, it is raw data, which is of potential use to both the theoretical and applied anthropologist. However, these mythologies and stories not only portray what the women perceive, but demonstrate what events they consider to be most important. To them, mythological events are "more important" than any event in their own lives.

As the author states, Part IV could have been more complete if myths and legends from earlier in the century had been included. This would have given the reader a sense of how storytelling had changed due to white influences. However, the same point would have been made if Cruikshank had enlarged on the idea that women over 70 willingly relate stories and enjoy having their names attached, while women between the ages of 40-60 seldom relate stories and prefer that