# Book Reviews

**Atomic Energy in the Communist Bloc.** George A. Modelski. Melbourne University Press, Melbourne, Australia; Cambridge University Press, New York, 1959. 226 pp. $5.50.

**Atomic Energy in the Soviet Union.** Arnold Kramish. Stanford University Press, Stanford, Calif., 1959. viii + 232 pp. $4.75.

Somewhat coincidently, these two books appear at about the same time, and they have essentially the same goal: to ascertain as accurately as possible, by careful perusal of published information, what has happened in the development and use of atomic energy behind the Iron Curtain. And the results of the two analyses are fundamentally alike, even though the dust jacket of Modelski's book states that "it contains no secrets or sensations," whereas that of Kramish's book refers to "the many startling facts contained." Actually, the first quote applies well to either book; the second is, perhaps, merely an example of all-too-frequent careless blurb-writing.

Each author faces the difficult job of constructing a believable, consistent picture of atomic energy progress from a few technical journals, the proceedings of the 1955 and 1958 Geneva Atoms-for-Peace Conferences, and such questionable sources as *Pravda* and *Izvestia.* Modelski admits frankly that "all information releases in the Soviet Union may be taken to have a propaganda purpose," but he feels that by careful reading a reasonably accurate picture can be prepared. Kramish states that "the scientific analyses are as precise as the Soviet statements on which they are based," but I am sure that he does not mean it, and instead feels that he too has found a hard core of truth.

In essence, both books represent what a research scientist would call "literature searches," which by their very nature tend to be rather dull. But they are valuable to the extent that true information can be extracted from the enormous amount of propaganda issued in the Soviet Union. The general impression created by each book is that a good job has been done in getting at the valid material; in several cases where I have firsthand knowledge of scientific developments in the Soviet Union, the relevant conclusions in both books are correct.

Although both books are similar in type and seem to have used many of the same sources of information, there are distinct differences between them. Modelski's book is a more scholarly, carefully annotated job, with an average of several footnotes per page, which refer to specific sources of information. It also contains a number of tables that cover such things as basic industrial production, the amount of electric power generated, and the number of engineering graduates. Modelski's primary subject is industrial atomic energy, which is covered in detail, not only in the Soviet Union but in the satellite countries as well. There is very little discussion of atomic bombs, and few general conclusions concerning the relative merits of communism and democracy. The many references to specific facts are valuable in building up an accurate picture, but make for rather slow reading.

The Kramish book is obviously meant for the layman, judging by the exciting chapter titles and the evident desire to make the material a bit alarming. In contrast to Modelski, the main subject of Kramish's book, and one that occupies more than half its bulk, is the story of the development of bombs in the Soviet Union and the relationship of that program to the corresponding program in the United States. Very few sources of information are quoted, and there are many interpretative statements for which no evidence is given. In particular, remarks are made, in the present journalistic fashion, implying without evidence that the Soviets are making some remarkable advance. These opinions tend to conclude chapters, such as the last sentence of chapter 10: "And for quite some time Soviet scientists have spoken of certain applications of atomic energy that are only now beginning to be appreciated in the West." Kramish clearly wins on timeliness; whereas Modelski does not cover the second Geneva Conference, in 1958, Kramish includes events as recent as Admiral Rickover's reaction to the Soviet atomic icebreaker "Lenin," which he inspected on 27 July 1959.

In summary, Kramish is probably the book for the general reader who is looking for a stimulating, easy-to-read description of atomic events in the Soviet Union, which pays particular regard to bomb development. On the other hand, the serious student who is interested in a reasonably accurate picture of the atomic industrial potentiality of the Soviet Union, together with its communist partners, would do much better to read Modelski.

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**Native Peoples of South America.** Julian H. Steward and Louis C. Faron. McGraw-Hill, New York, 1959. xi + 481 pp. Illus. $11.50.

This attractive book reviews, in condensed form, the content of that monumental, germinal work, *The Handbook of South American Indians,* edited between 1946 and 1950 by Steward, a coauthor of this volume. Generally, the theoretical positions taken in the earlier work are maintained here, but with some taxonomical refinements based on more recent research. Generally, too, the authors have not, as they comment (page vi), taken account of much recently available published and unpublished material, though works such as Moore's study of Inca property and law and Murra's study of Inca economy might have modified their interpretations of the Inca state and of Spanish-Inca acculturation. Similarly, recent field work on practically unknown or poorly described tribes—such as the Fulnió, Jívaro, Kraho, Kuikuru, and Yaruro—which might have modified some of the interpretations, has been omitted.

The book begins by placing native South America in the context of New and Old World cultures, and it ably discusses the proveniences of South Amer-