

## 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 coincidentally, 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 co-author 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, Krahó, 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-

ican culture content from autochthonous growths out of some base-line culture brought by Asian immigrants or from transpacific or circumpolar diffusion. The authors admit that there was considerable transpacific diffusion, but affirm that it was significant only in terms of trait integrations into indigenously structured and evolving cultures. An insightful discussion of linguistic affiliations and culture history, which is based on Greenberg's recent classification, follows. The authors survey South American topography, climate, wild and domestic biota, and demography. Chiefly, the book describes, in some detail, numerous cultures or culture subtypes of the larger typology first established in the *Handbook* and refined here: central Andean, the circum-Caribbean, Bolivian, Andean, and Venezuelan-Antillean chiefdoms, southern Andean "farmers," tropical forest villages, hunters, and gatherers. They also attempt some description of the European acculturation of each type. The account of central Andean acculturation strikes me as most stimulating and suggestive for further research.

Despite the over-all excellence, I am bothered by theoretical inconsistencies which mar the book. In different contexts, disparate explanations for similar phenomena are given. Warfare is alternately said to be waged for prestige, loot, religious motives, trophies, land, or resources. Though it is obvious that forms of warfare varied, the data presented indicate clearly that ecological causes of warfare were *always* present, whatever other motives became functionally fused with ecological stimuli. By giving a consistent account of warfare, the authors might have elicited cultural regularities such as have interested them in previous works, associated with the evolution of cultural ecologies. Such regularities are implicit in their stage treatment of Andean culture history. Again, from students of cultural evolution, I am amazed by this remarkable statement (page 65): "Central Andean cultural development had probably fulfilled its native potentialities by the time of the Spanish Conquest. It is very doubtful that it could have acquired any radically new patterns through internal evolution alone." The absence of iron ores (recently found in plenty in Peru) is given as one reason for this (page 141). Further, why should the Inca's "exalted status" (pages 125 and 134) en-

tail brother-sister marriage? Since monarchs equally exalted in other cultures did not marry sororically, factors other than exaltation must have operated to cause sibling marriage. The analysis of social types and surplus production (pages 60-64) seems equally faulty in its application of current principles. The book would have been a much stronger document if these principles of our science, to the development of which both authors have contributed, had been consistently used as the framework of their cultural analysis.

I am also bothered by unnecessary errors. The Mundurucú are said to have matrilineages (page 338), though Murphy specifically denies this [*Am. Anthropologist* 58, 425 (1956)]. The Spanish are said to have been patrilineal (page 154); Murdock classifies them as bilateral [*Am. Anthropologist* 59, 678 (1957)]. The authors mention a creator moon-goddess for the Yaruro; this is not to be found in *Petrullo* or in the *Handbook*. Most of the Yaruro ecological, social organizational, and settlement data are erroneous, as later field work by Le Besnerais (1954) and me has shown. The "Guahibo and Chiricoa"—the latter is the Yaruro name for the former—are still classified as hunters and gatherers, though Wilbert mentions that they sometimes had gardens [*Southwest J. Anthropol.* 13, 88 (1957)], and I observed them burning swiddens. The evidence presently suggests that horticulture was aboriginal among both groups. One may question whether Benvenuto Cellini (1500-71) worked for "feudal lords," and whether by the 16th century the Industrial Revolution, in any ordinary usage of the term, had occurred anywhere in Europe, let alone in Spain as the authors suggest (pages 146-47).

Despite these criticisms, the book is most welcome, and it shows the great progress made since Radin's *Indians of South America*, only 13 years ago. It again demonstrates the fundamental importance of a vast taxonomic ordering of data, such as Steward's ever-basic *Handbook*. Though the price is exorbitant, the book is a useful compendium and introduction, tastefully illustrated with unusually select photographs and drawings, to the study of South America, for professionals and students alike.

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**The Fifth Mental Measurements Yearbook.** Oscar Krisen Buros, Ed. Gryphon Press, Highland Park, N.J., 1959. xxx + 1292 pp. \$22.50.

In 1292 staggering pages, Oscar K. Buros has perpetuated his service to test constructors, test publishers, and (most importantly) test users. Under his impeccable editorship, this fifth edition of the *Yearbook* lists 957 tests and presents 698 original test reviews by 350 well-qualified reviewers and 48 excerpts from test reviews published in 16 journals. It provides 6468 references on specific tests, lists 485 books on measurements, and quotes 535 excerpts from book reviews. Although the latter are useful, they do not constitute the unique contribution provided by the original reviews of tests, which in general are evaluative, informative, and thought-provoking. The volume covers the period from 1952 to 1958. Supplementing earlier volumes, it attempts to cover all commercially available tests and all measurement books published in English-speaking countries.

Buros' objectives are: "To make available . . . test reviews which will assist test users to make more discriminating selections of . . . tests; . . . to impel authors and publishers to place fewer but better tests on the market . . .; and to impress test users with the desirability of suspecting all standard tests—even those prepared by well-known authorities—unaccompanied by data on their construction, validation, use, and limitations."

Despite this truly remarkable series, large numbers of what ought to be unsalable tests continue to flood the market, if Buros' reviewers are correct. Test specialists are painfully aware, also, that significant use is being made of many tests unaccompanied by interpretable data to substantiate their value.

I can but concur with reviewers of earlier volumes that this effort is "monumental," "indispensable," and "encyclopedic," and that it is a "bibliographer's dream," a "milestone," and a "must." It should be available, however, not only to students and teachers of testing and users of educational tests, but also in any industrial organization and public service agency that contemplates the purchase and use of any kind of test for personnel selection. At \$22.50, this book is cheap.

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