

administration of Soviet heavy industries" (p. 7). A judgment on Azrael's conclusion to his general questions turns on his definition of the managerial elite and the analysis of post-Stalin change in the Soviet decision-making process. Perhaps the group interested in economic efficiency and in the delegation of authority in economic matters to professionals should not be called simply managers. Albert Parry takes a much broader view in his reference to the New Class in his book on a similar topic (*New Class Divided*). In my opinion, the proper definition lies somewhere between Azrael's concept and Parry's. In the U.S.S.R. of today it should include such leading economists and mathematicians as Nemchinov, Novozhilov, and Kantorovich; central planners such as Malyshev; and certain heads of ministries. There is, to be sure, no monolithic view in this group; for each one named, others could be suggested with differing views as to the change and the political role of their professional group. The change they seek may be limited, involving mainly the use of familiar economic and mathematical techniques of analysis and for improvements in the data for various policy decisions; but because techniques such as input-output analysis, linear programming, and the like are complex, the character of the elite would change, and the possibility exists that the allocation of resources might also substantially change. In this context, the more broadly defined managerial-economist elite might well have an innovating role in the Soviet political process. Looking at it in this light we might identify elements of a new generation of economists-managers whose vested interest and professional standing would impel them toward basic change.

It is, however, not only the definition of the managerial elite that poses a problem in our acceptance of Azrael's negative judgments. Adding to our uneasiness is his focus on earlier periods in the evaluation of current change, which by its essence must draw from very current indicators that are, in many instances, only recently and somewhat ambiguously evident. Pluralism is a very new and tentative development in Soviet life. Azrael raises serious doubts of the imminence of an economic-managerial revolution in changing Soviet society. He characterizes the Soviet system (p. 179) as one that is "directed toward the crea-

tion and maintenance of a state of permanent revolution." The most recent evidence casts doubt on, if it does not entirely belie, this statement.

This book nevertheless represents a first-rate analysis and a substantive contribution to our knowledge of the Soviet system. Soviet society appears currently to be in flux, and the readers of *Science* would profit from reading the book in the light of the increasingly provocative evidence of change in the Soviet political scene.

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