

bibliographical essay, a very useful guide to the literature, rightly highlights works in English, though it also cites standard works in French, Spanish, and Italian--only one in German. The documents in the appendix are drawn from English, French, German, Spanish, and Italian sources, but they are very brief and add little to the value of the book. Better excerpts are easily available to most teachers and students. Broers discusses historical methods only by reviewing the historiography of his subject.

The topical approach of *Europe after Napoleon* is refreshing and remarkably clear, but be advised that its prose and analysis are sophisticated and assume a fairly detailed knowledge of events. This is the ideal book for the graduate student surveying the ideologies and historiography of the era in preparation for comprehensive examinations. Teachers, too, will find it a useful source on political ideologies. Advanced undergraduates of the highest caliber will find it stimulating. But the average undergraduate will probably get lost in this book.

College of the Ozarks

Michael W. Howell

**Eric Cahm. *The Dreyfus Affair in French Society and Politics*. London & New York: Longman, 1996. Pp. xvi, 211. Paper, \$15.95. ISBN 0-582-27678-0.**

The year 1994 marked a century since the inception of the Dreyfus Affair, the sensational case that transfixed France and the Western world for a dozen years. The facts of the case are no longer in dispute. Alfred Dreyfus, a Jew and a captain in the French army, was falsely accused of spying for Germany, convicted by a military court, publicly degraded, and sentenced to life imprisonment on Devil's Island. The general staff, all too willing to convict Dreyfus, ignored the paucity of evidence and adamantly insisted on his guilt, even when the real culprit, the unscrupulous Major Esterhazy, was exposed. The case became a *cause célèbre*, with enduring political consequences.

The honor of the army seemed at stake to the host of grand and petty rogues in the military--the vain aristocrat, the Marquis du Paty de Clam; the war minister, General Mercier; and the forger of evidence, Major Henry--as well as the worthy Colonel Piquart, who declined to sanction the cover-up. The cast of characters among the Dreyfusards, those who sought to rectify the error and expose the truth, is familiar--the indefatigable Matthieu Dreyfus who persisted in proving his brother's innocence; the heroic Émile Zola whose article "J'accuse" in Clemenceau's newspaper *L'Aurore* publicly exposed the army's deceit; and, at a later stage of the Affair, the humane Jean Juarès who associated the cause of Dreyfus with the future of socialism, and ultimately agonized over the different strategies required to satisfy the grievances of the victim or to further the cause of an abstract justice.

Eric Cahm, lecturer in Contemporary History at the University of Tours, has provided a useful overview of the lengthy affair. While he does not tell the tale as vividly as Nicholas Halasz, whose *Captain Dreyfus* (1955) is now out of print, Cahm excels in

incorporating recent research about the consequences and significance of the Affair for twentieth-century France. He contrasts the intensity of the Affair at its center in Paris with the relative indifference to it when viewed from the provinces, and deftly analyzes the "degree of social mobilization" that transformed it into a major political battle that threatened the survival of the Third Republic. He also analyzes the changing compositions and commitment of Dreyfusards and anti-Dreyfusards. The former included the Radicals led by Clemenceau, a significant group among the socialists and, eventually, some members of the government, though the author notes that for a considerable time anti-Dreyfusards had the support of "the deliberately silent Republican majority." Other moderate anti-Dreyfusards included many in the military and those traditionally opposed to the Republic, while the "violent" anti-Dreyfusards were driven by a virulent antisemitism to which the politicized elements of French Catholicism contributed. Cahm is particularly effective in discussing the emergence of the modern intellectual in the course of the Affair, on the political Right as well as the Left. While the tight narrative sections may be difficult for students unfamiliar with French history, the interpretive sections are excellent both for the general reader and for the teacher.

The book's technical production could have benefitted from closer proofreading and the avoidance of far too many one-sentence paragraphs that lend an unnecessarily telegraphic quality to the account. The author provides a helpful chronological chart and a valuable bibliography.

University of Memphis

Abraham D. Kriegel

**Christopher Read.** *From Tsar to Soviets: The Russian People and Their Revolution, 1917-21.* New York: Oxford University Press, 1996. Pp. vi, 330. Cloth, \$45.00 ISBN 0-19-52124-28. Paper, \$19.95; ISBN 0-19-52124-1X.

Christopher Read states in his introduction that his purpose in writing this book is to examine the role of ordinary Russians in the 1917 revolution and its aftermath. He adds that "the tragedy of the revolution lies in the Bolsheviks' failure to recognize the real revolution of the time and instead to pursue their own highly structured presuppositions about what the revolution *should* have been like and what the chief actors *should* have been doing." To develop his thesis, Read takes us through a chronology of the revolutionary era in Russia. He examines the position and politics of the peasantry and the industrial laborers in the pre-1917 period and at regular intervals through 1917 and the era of the Civil War. He contends that peasants were interested primarily in the communal ownership of land and the availability of goods in exchange for crops. The industrial workers were most concerned about wages, working conditions, and control within the factories.

Peasants and workers found the Bolsheviks appealing in 1917 because Bolshevik rhetoric matched their concerns. As the Civil War raged, the government resorted to forced requisitioning of food from the countryside and a diminution of worker control in