

Empire and the end of the old order in Russia are the last two themes in this work. Russia's imperial borders were expanded from the era of Peter the Great (if not earlier) to the middle of the nineteenth century. However, it was evident by the beginning of the twentieth century that Russia's imperial status was fading. Russia experienced three military defeats (Crimean War 1854-56, Russo-Japanese War 1904-05, and World War I 1914-1918) in this era, which contributed mightily to the political, social, and military collapse of the empire, according to Waldron. The last chapter focuses most of its attention on the collapse during World War I. Unfortunately, Waldron does not give much attention to the rising radical/revolutionary movement that was active during this period and played a role in the fall of the Romanovs.

Aside from the problems already noted, there are two other drawbacks to this work. First, it is a thematic approach that might prove difficult for undergraduates. There are three distinct eras (Alexander II, Alexander III, and Nicholas II) covered in this text, and they differ greatly. Waldron discusses his various themes across the different eras that someone with some knowledge of Russian history might find interesting; however, most undergraduates would probably be confused. The second problem is there are no maps. Since Russia has had several military conflicts, boundary changes, and internal movements, it seems necessary to include at least one general map, if not more specific ones.

Overall, the work is very readable, well-researched (archival, primary, and secondary sources), and provides an excellent bibliography that includes books and articles. The articles are a nice addition to the bibliography. This work would be very good for advanced undergraduates and instructors refreshing themselves, but for beginners in Russian history the thematic approach might prove difficult.

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William J. Tompson. *Khrushchev: A Political Life.* New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997. Pp. ix, 341. Paper, \$15.95; ISBN 0-312-16360-6.

Mark Galeotti. *Gorbachev and His Revolution.* New York: St. Martin's Press, 1997. Pp. ix, 142. Cloth, \$49.95; ISBN 0-312-16481-5. Paper, \$18.95; ISBN 0-312-16482-3.

In retrospect, the last fifty years of the Soviet Union's existence constitute a case study in the decline and fall of empire. The legacy of Stalin's systematic terror, the burdens of world war, economic and industrial decline, technological backwardness, a single-party regime that stifled innovation, and the burdens of maintaining a military-industrial system capable of propping up multinational empire seem insurmountable obstacles to reforming the unreformable. These two books join the flood of works

examining efforts at reforming the Soviet Union after Stalin's death. Both books approach their topics from the perspective of the Soviet leaders and their attempts to reform the Soviet Union from the top down. Tompson's political biography of Nikita Khrushchev offers a well-written, carefully researched narrative aimed at the general reader, while Galeotti's brief study is a simple, straightforward primer for students of the last ten years of the Soviet Union's existence.

Tompson makes good use of recently accessible materials in the All-Russian Center for the Preservation and Study of Documents of Recent History (formerly the Central Party Archive), the Central State Archive of Social Movements of the City of Moscow (formerly the Moscow Party Archive), and numerous Soviet newspapers and other periodicals. The author traces in great detail Khrushchev's career from his peasant origins in tsarist Russia through his forced retirement in October 1964. About half of the book carries the story to Stalin's death and the subsequent struggle for succession. From the wealth of detail Khrushchev emerges as one of the "new men" brought forward by the revolution and Stalin's rise to power. His devotion to the new regime was less intellectual than practical. His youthful experiences as a shepherd and metal fitter fixed in his mind a lifelong view of the evils of capitalism. With little formal education, Khrushchev joined the party and soon began his steady rise through the ranks with the aid of patrons such as Lazar M. Kaganovich and others. After some party schooling, he became Moscow First Secretary, helped direct construction of the Moscow Metro, and in 1938 oversaw party purges in Ukraine. Tompson uses newly available archival materials to illustrate how enthusiastically Khrushchev supported Stalin's terror and the purges of the 1930s.

The second half of Tompson's volume offers a meticulous look at Khrushchev's years in power. The author provides detailed accounts of Khrushchev's decision to deliver the famous secret speech of 1956 denouncing Stalin, the "Anti-Party" crisis of 1957, and Khrushchev's relations with provincial leaders whose political support he depended upon as a power base. There is also ample discussion of Khrushchev's foreign policy, emphasizing relations with Yugoslavia, China, the Soviet Bloc, and the United States--especially the U-2 Affair and the Cuban missile crisis. From Tompson's narrative emerges a Khrushchev who retained a fundamental faith in the Soviet system and whose diagnosis of its problems was superficial.

Galeotti's book offers a concise, crisply written analytical narrative of the last decade of the Soviet Union's existence. Brief chapters provide a telescoped discussion of the problems Russia's leaders--both tsarist and Soviet--faced in the struggle of the center to impose its authority upon the peoples and regions of an enormous and varied country. The author stresses the growing corruption of the Brezhnev era and Andropov's vital role in laying the groundwork for reforming and modernizing the party and state apparatus and his decision to bring Gorbachev to Moscow. Gorbachev is portrayed as a reluctant revolutionary who began his rule with a strong belief in the role of the party and the Soviet system. Galeotti argues that Gorbachev started out

with a very limited view of the changes required to reform the Soviet system, the ruling elite, and the party. He accelerated the efforts to streamline and modernize the system but did not want to change direction. When these policies made matters worse, Gorbachev looked beyond the party and the ruling elite to a role for the Soviet people. In doing so, Gorbachev broke with the decades-old policy of stressing party leadership. Galeotti concludes that Gorbachev grew as an evolutionary political leader who accepted the new realities that required reforms much more radical than he imagined initially.

Galeotti's account of Gorbachev's revolution will make an excellent text for twentieth-century Soviet history courses. There are helpful charts and diagrams, useful reading lists of works in English following each chapter, a bibliography for further reading, and appendices providing a chronology of events and capsule biographies of the main personalities. On the other hand, Tompson's political biography can be used as collateral reading for advanced courses and will be helpful in fleshing out lectures for nearly any twentieth-century history course.

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John W. Young. *Britain and the World in the Twentieth Century.* London & New York: Arnold, 1997. Pp. xi, 250. Paper, \$19.95; ISBN 0-340-54013-3. Cloth, \$59.95; ISBN 0-340-69174-3.

Britain and the World in the Twentieth Century is a fine book. It is well written, well organized, and very informative. The work is part of a series titled "International Relations and the Great Powers," a series that includes *Japan and the World since 1868*, with titles such as *France and the World in the Twentieth Century*, and *The United States and the World in the Twentieth Century* forthcoming.

The author of *Britain and the World in the Twentieth Century*, John W. Young, Professor of Politics at the University of Leicester, also wrote *Britain and European Unity, 1945-92*, *Winston Churchill's Last Campaign*, and *Cold War Europe*. Professor Young has a firm grasp of the material and the ability to present it clearly. The author does presuppose a slight knowledge of twentieth-century English and European history on the part of the reader, but a detailed knowledge is not necessary.

After an excellent introduction to Britain at the turn of the century, the various chapters discuss the major divisions of English foreign policy from 1905 to 1997. Some examples: "Entente and Anglo-German Rivalry, 1905-1914," "Great War and Imperial Crisis, 1914-1924," "Third Power, 1945-1956," and "Reluctantly European, 1973-1997." Each section looks at the major policy makers, be they Foreign Secretary or Prime Minister, and those things that have tended to influence their decisions. The author discusses those aspects of English society that determine foreign policy