

mathematical Programming and Tolerances in Planning," *Economic Computation and Economic Cybernetics Studies and Research* [Bucharest], 1976, no. 1, pp. 3-14).

This treatise offers an abstract framework to contain the diverse realities of the economic systems around us. The challenge now is to fill the intervening space, working up from empirical detail and down from strict theory, to build a tested body of understanding. Contributions to the effort may well appear in the new *Journal of Comparative Economics* whose editor, not surprisingly, is John Michael Montias.

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TRENDS IN THE SOVIET OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY. By *Robert W. Campbell*. A Resources for the Future Book. Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1976. xvi, 125 pp. Tables. Figures. \$10.00.

This compact, succinct little book is a useful companion to the author's *Economics of Soviet Oil and Gas* (1968). It admirably fulfills the stated intentions of updating the data base of the earlier work and reviewing the most important developments since 1965. Separate chapters deal with Soviet energy policy, exploration, drilling, oil production, oil transport, oil refining, the gas industry, the economic reform in oil and gas, and Soviet participation in world energy markets (as buyer and seller). In cogent summaries that bracket the more detailed discussion, Professor Campbell argues that Soviet oil and gas planners now face problems different from those of the 1950s and 1960s, and that their success in dealing with these problems will determine both the level and structure of future Soviet energy development. As usual, careful scholarship routs glib generalizations—for example, the undue pessimism about a Soviet "energy crisis," and the undue optimism that the USSR can bail the West out of its own energy crisis with massive energy exports.

Professor Campbell attributes many of the problems Soviet energy planners face to difficulties in meeting technological challenges—in drilling, oil refining, pipeline construction and operation, and the production of both oil and gas. This line of argument is backed up by a wealth of technical detail. Insightful (if tantalizingly brief) discussions deal with refinery mixes and product quality, the utilization of natural gas, the export of crude oil versus refined products, and planning methods (especially the attempts to apply optimizing models). In view of the apparent space constraints, Soviet oil purchases in the Middle East receive overmuch attention, with perhaps the least satisfying results. (Arms sales and Comecon debt instruments are stressed, to the relative neglect of the desire to minimize transport costs, given fixed commitments to Communist allies—to the reviewer, the best explanation of those purchases.) Unfortunate publication delays have left the data series two or three years out of date, in a situation subject to rapid change.

Not to carp, however—this is a valuable book for serious students of Soviet energy policy and more general readers alike.

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THE CLIMATES OF THE SOVIET UNION. By *Paul E. Lydolph*. World Survey of Climatology, vol. 7. Amsterdam and New York: Elsevier Scientific Publishing Company, 1977. xii, 443 pp. Illus. Dfl. 200. \$81.75.

Dr. Lydolph has performed a valuable and long overdue service in compiling a comprehensive reference on climatic factors in the Soviet Union. His stated intent "is to present general climatic information that can be used as a basis for other studies which