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Russland als Vielvölkerreich: Entstehung, Geschichte, Zerfall by Andreas Kappeler

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social and economic stimulus? Brumfield's data inevitably raise these important questions for historians.

Hermeneutical practice is only for the very daring and the semiotics of architecture is a minefield. Brumfield walks as carefully as he can. What can we make of the putative message of a neoclassicism used both by patrician American southern slaveholders and by democratic New England towns; by nineteenth-century St. Petersburg imperial bureaucrats and by resistant Muscovite provincial gentry; by antimodern conservatives and by "rational" modern architect-engineers in 1910? Do the answers to such questions of meaning lie only in the buildings themselves (produced within the limitations of nature, money, time, and contingent accident) or also in the words ("intentions") of the patrons and designers and users?

This book is handsomely produced; it is especially noteworthy that illustrations are placed within a page of the appropriate text. But some drawings (often taken without attribution from older Russian sources) are unreadable in detail, especially scale-measures. The level of proofreading is respectable; the minor misprints (such as "semetry," "concensus," 1973 for 1793, and 898 for 989), some inconsistent rendition of European-origin Russian names (such as Ol/Ohl), and a few missing prepositions are slips of the sort that an older publishing industry would feel compelled to correct with an errata slip, especially in such a luxury product. This is a beautiful book.

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ANDREAS KAPPELER. *Russland als Vielvölkerreich: Entstehung, Geschichte, Zerfall*. 2d ed., rev. Munich: C. H. Beck. 1993. Pp. 395. DM 58.

Empires, by definition, are multi-ethnic conglomerates. Traditional Russian historiography ignored this fact and treated the history of the Russian empire as if it were the national history of the Russians alone. Even more disconcerting was the readiness with which Western, especially American, historians of the empire adopted this russocentric bias. Fortunately, Andreas Kappeler, a leading specialist on the empire's non-Russian subjects, has written a work that provides a much-needed corrective to this imbalanced view. Indeed, so successfully does his book fulfill this function that its appearance should be viewed as a major historiographical event in the field.

The book's scope is vast. An introductory chapter deals with medieval precedents. But the core of the book encompasses the period between Moscow's first major conquest of non-Russians in 1552 and the disintegration of the tsarist empire in 1917. In an innovative, enlightening manner, the author divides the more than 350 years of tsarist expansion into well-defined stages and identifies the distinguishing features of each phase. He not only analyzes the tsars'

strategy and tactics in subjugating the non-Russians but also describes the responses of the latter to incorporation into the empire. Thus, the empire-building process is treated from the perspective of the periphery as well as the center. The author also skillfully interpolates the political with the socioeconomic and cultural aspects of tsarist empire-building. He describes the social structures, occupational profiles, and cultural characteristics of the major non-Russian nationalities and examines the functions that they performed in the imperial system. Data on the nineteenth century, much of it gleaned from Kappeler's separately published analysis of the 1897 census, are especially informative. And his judicious use of social-science concepts elucidates the problems that rising literacy rates, a growing intelligentsia, and the spread of nationalism among the subject peoples posed to the empire. The final chapter deals with Soviet nationality policies up to 1991.

Enlightening insights and generalizations abound. For example, Kappeler elaborates on the relative socioeconomic and cultural underdevelopment of the Russian center in comparison to its Western, non-Russian peripheries, on the favoritism shown by the tsars to non-Russian as opposed to Russian elites, and on the predominance of political-strategic over economic considerations in the expansion of the empire. A tour de force of erudition and synthesis, Kappeler's important book ought to be essential reading for all historians of imperial Russia. It should, therefore, be translated into Russian and English as soon as possible.

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EVGENII V. ANISIMOV. *The Reforms of Peter the Great: Progress through Coercion in Russia*. Translated and foreword by JOHN T. ALEXANDER. (The New Russian History.) Armonk, N.Y.: M. E. Sharpe. 1993. Pp. xi, 327. Cloth \$39.95, paper \$19.95.

Evgenii V. Anisimov's book is a remarkable work of historical synthesis and a refreshing reexamination of Peter's reign in the light of recent events. The author describes clearly and thoroughly the main developments in all areas of national life: war and diplomacy, domestic politics and legislation, the economy, and culture. As is to be expected of a work of synthesis, specialists will find little new material here. At the same time, in the course of the narrative, Anisimov makes many trenchant, thought-provoking comments about Peter's personality and style of rule and the ways in which his policies contributed to the texture of Russian political and social life in more recent times. His work clearly rests on a firm knowledge of the documentary sources of the period and Russian historiography on Peter, as well as a good command of the main currents of Western and