
Geography of the USSR, A Regional Survey. *Theodore Shabad.* Columbia University Press, New York. 1951. xxxii+584 pp. \$8.50.

The author has divided the volume into two parts. Part I, covering only 92 pages, is a general survey of the physical features, the political framework, and the economic pattern of Russia. The 405 pages of Part II are devoted to a factual account of the current geography, population, agriculture, industry, and transportation for each of the major political divisions and subdivisions of the country.

For those interested in a general but limited survey of the USSR without becoming involved in a detailed account of the various political divisions, the first part appears to fulfill the need. The encyclopedic nature of the second part, based on a regional division by political units rather than a treatment of the country from the geographic standpoint, detracts from the suitability of the book as a geography text. Its value for reference purposes, however, especially to non-Russian reading students, is superior to most studies dealing with the Soviet Union.

The author's objective in presenting "an up-to-date treatment of the geography" of Russia seems to have been basically fulfilled. The wealth of current information, as well as maps, in the body of the text should be of great value to those desiring a more intimate knowledge of the present-day geography of the country. The statistical tables, based upon Soviet sources, and the bibliography in the appendix add considerably to the usefulness of the book. However, the lack of illustrative material depicting the geographic nature of the country will be missed by those accustomed to standard geographic publications.

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