

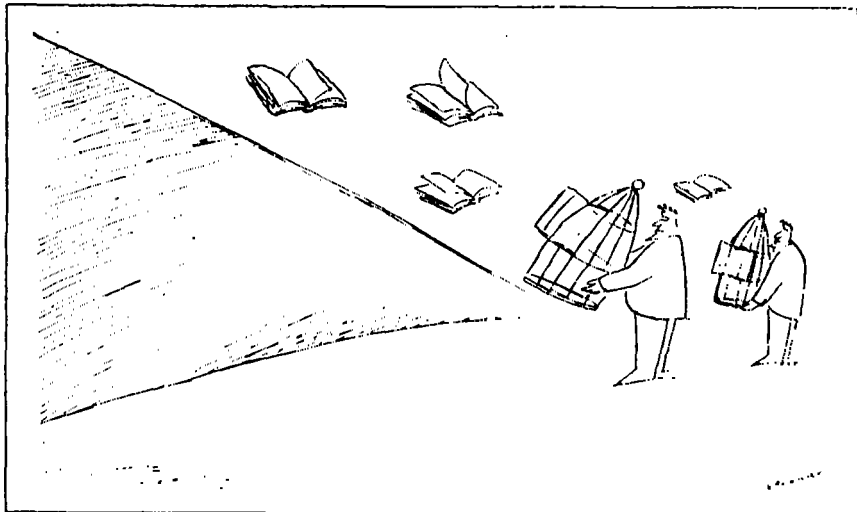
into its present identity crisis.'

Barkan's narrative is not only one of the few histories of the Italian trade union movement available in English, but, given the close links between trade unions and political parties in Italy, it is also a synopsis of Italy's postwar political development as well. The Italian Communist party's policy of "*compromesso storico*" (a political alignment with the Right-leaning Christian Democratic party) comes under particular attack, but Barkan's criticism of Italy's second largest party and the largest Communist party in Europe comes from the Left not the Right: Barkan was once a correspondent for the far-Left newspaper *Il Manifesto*. But the author is remarkably evenhanded in her descriptions of the politics and economics of postwar Italy (although her report of the "secret financing" of the Social Democratic party by the U.S., accepted as fact in leftist circles, has never actually been documented).

As an added treat, at the end of this volume we are given "Conversations in Turin," interviews with FIAT workers, FIAT officials, and other Turinese, including the city's Communist mayor and our friend the cab driver. Here Barkan's analyses of the Italian labor movement receive ample illustration in the flesh-and-blood characters she presents. The major themes covered in the first part of this volume—including the impact of terrorism and the influence of a rising women's movement—are neatly echoed in the words of those interviewed.

Perhaps the most interesting theme running through these interviews—and certainly one that has echoes in the American experience—is the growing gap between old and new workers. "The younger people don't want to work," says an older FIAT worker. "They've been unemployed too long. The system is all wrong. Young people should go to work right away. Instead they want an easy life. We older workers accept orders—we obey. These young people don't. There's no communication between us."

There is another gap, however: between the old trade union structure and the needs of a modern, and increasingly more automated, work force. The industrial working class, the core constituency of many labor movements, is dwindling. The new technology being introduced into factories—like the completely automated robogate at FIAT—has dramatically altered the stakes at the workplace. Many of the traditional tactics used by unions no longer work. Young people in Italy do not necessarily see unions as the primary focal point of social changes. They may not even define



themselves as workers.

"It is as if players, rules, and even playing fields were changing simultaneously," writes Barkan. Any trade union movement strategy that doesn't take into account these changes, she concludes, "is already out-moded."

Union leaders of any nation can learn much from the Italian case. Barkan fortunately provides English-speaking readers a chance to examine at close range the vicissitudes of an Italian union movement whose final chapter has yet to be written.

A KILLING RAIN: THE GLOBAL THREAT OF ACID PRECIPITATION

by **Thomas Pawlick**

(Sierra Club Books [San Francisco]; 206 pp.; \$14.95)

THE PRIMARY SOURCE: TROPICAL FORESTS AND OUR FUTURE

by **Norman Myers**

(W. W. Norton & Co.; 399 pp.; \$17.95)

Albert L. Huebner

In 1971, acting on the premise that leaded paint was by far the major cause of lead intoxication in children, the U.S. Congress passed the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act. As the threat from paint slowly declined, it became clear that the exhaust from automobiles was another major source of the toxic metal. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently announced plans to cut allowable lead in gasoline sharply by the end of the year, and government agencies around the world are debating the clim-

ination of lead from gasoline.

As with many environmental problems, just when one source of a dangerous pollutant is being brought under control, another is discovered: Acid rain promotes the release of lead into drinking water. The problem is actually broader than Pawlick suggests in *A Killing Rain*. Aging water pipes sealed with lead solder release the metal into the water; acidification increases the rate of release.

But lead in the environment is only one of the many troubles created by acid rain. Other toxic metals—copper, aluminum, cadmium—are released as well. Local antipollution ordinances mandate the use of towering smokestacks. As a consequence, sulphates and oxides of nitrogen drift hundreds or even thousands of miles downwind from the plants where they originate, killing trees and irritating respiratory systems. Rain as bitter as vinegar acidifies soils and lakes.

Pawlick is a competent and compassionate journalist. He writes almost as movingly about his despair at seeing a dead lake or a dying forest as he does about the terror of a fourteen-year-old experiencing a pollution-induced asthma attack or the frustration of once-prosperous maple syrup producers in Quebec driven to bankruptcy by blighted trees. And he conveys the indignation that we should all feel at the aesthetic loss, not to mention the loss of physical well-being, caused by the millions of tons of pollutants injected into the atmosphere annually.

A Killing Rain is less effective in dealing with those unresolved issues that have become clouded by interminable debate. Not all the dead fish on the surface of a New England lake are there because of acid rain. In attributing too much devastation to this one cause, Pawlick makes it easier for pol-

luters to dismiss his concerns as "environmentalist hysteria."

And even where acid rain is unmistakably the culprit, the legal and social problem remains: Specific industrial plants or urban centers can't be directly linked to specific damage done when the rain falls. The National Academy of Sciences asserts that reducing emissions will reduce deposition proportionately, but each polluter claims that no case can be made against him individually.

Pawlick is right in stating that "something has come into existence that wasn't here before," and, more important, in showing that acid rain exacts an enormous social cost. Cleaning up acid rain will certainly be cost-effective, but the expense probably won't be acceptable until it is spread as widely, and therefore as painlessly, as possible.

There is also a social cost to the destruction of tropical forests. Norman Myers, a leading expert on these unique components of the Earth's biosphere, illustrates the pervasive role these forests play in the lives of millions of people who have never seen one—and the even greater benefits yet possible if they can be saved from the rapid destruction now occurring.

A striking example is the contribution of tropical forests to the food supply: An impressive number of the plants grown for food throughout the world originated in tropical forests. Moreover, as Myers observes, "all modern crops, being the refined products of selective breeding, constantly require new genetic material in order to maintain and even expand their productivity...and to resist emergent types of diseases and pests, as well as environmental stresses such as cold and drought." The tropical forests, containing nearly half of the Earth's plant species, are a vital repository of genetic material for breeding and also of entirely new food crops "capable of becoming front-rank in many lands if they were given a chance."

In addition to their critical contribution of food resources to a world in which hunger is a growing problem, these forests are also a major source of medicinal drugs, agricultural chemicals, and industrial raw materials. They could, in fact, supply much more. Most important perhaps, they fulfill a wide range of environmental functions both regionally and globally, including the regulation of floods and droughts and the stabilization of climate.

It's hardly comforting that pressures to raze these forests come from both the developed and the developing nations, and

peoples in both those worlds will experience the longer-term consequences of their destruction. Small farmers in the tropics clear forest for cropland, although in most cases the soil is so poor that it is depleted after a few years and the farmers must push deeper into the forest. Governments of these tropical countries, in order to secure foreign exchange, encourage loggers or cattle ranchers from the U.S., West Germany, or Japan to set up operations in the great forests. These unsustainable uses of the forests buy short-term benefits at the price of long-term disasters.

In confronting this grim state of affairs, Myers rejects the unrealistic view of some conservationists that exploitation of the tropical forests must cease completely. Instead, "the basic question we should ask is not how to safeguard all tropical forests, but which sectors of tropical forests shall we use in which ways, to meet whose needs of what kinds, and at what cost to whose opportunities for a better life through alternative forms of utilization."

Using this framework as the basis for analysis, he believes that short-term objectives can be achieved without losing long-term benefits. This will require a substantial investment—though it is an almost negligible amount when compared with the world's budget for armaments—to create parks and protected areas and to broaden research into the *sustainable* use of tropical forests.

If nations are guided by an improved understanding of forest processes, it is likely that extraction of timber can be made acceptable provided the entire forest is treated as a renewable resource stock. Lands degraded by ranching or subsistence farming might be used as plantations for oil palm, rubber, or other crops, and in this way they may play their environmental role at the same time as they contribute to development. And in such places as the Amazon floodplain, judicious planning would permit enormous expansion of agricultural output at no loss of other forest goods and services.

Control of acid rain will require political cooperation between the U.S. and Canada in North America, and among several nations in Europe. The expense, reasonably distributed, shouldn't be burdensome. If the tropical forests are to be saved, cooperation will be required on a global scale, and the expense will have to be borne by the entire developed world. Neither Pawlick nor Myers thinks these expenses will be accepted eagerly, but they are convinced that the needed expenditures *will* be accepted once the much greater cost of remaining on our present path is fully understood. WV

THE RUSSIAN CHURCH UNDER THE SOVIET REGIME, 1917-1982

by Dimitry Pospelovsky

(St. Vladimir's Seminary Press [Crestwood, N.Y.]; 535 pp.; \$17.95 [paper])

Paul Valliere

Dimitry Pospelovsky is to be congratulated for a history of the modern Russian Orthodox Church that Slavists and general readers alike will welcome for its comprehensive scope and detail; and St. Vladimir's Seminary Press is to be commended for making the work available in two attractive paperback volumes.

Drawing on both *samizdat* and emigré archives, on personal interviews as well as published sources, and above all on the works of Anatoly Levitin-Krasnov and Lev Regelson, Pospelovsky has contributed an interesting chapter on each of the main phases of Russian Orthodox Church history since the Revolution: the schisms of the '20s, the "holocaust" of the '30s, the war years and the revival of the patriarchal church, the Khrushchev persecutions, and developments in the last twenty years. Unlike some of his predecessors in the field, Pospelovsky devotes a considerable amount of attention to the Orthodox diaspora in Europe and North America and to the relations between the diaspora and the church in the Soviet Union. The result is a better appreciation of the Russian Orthodox Church in the context of the worldwide *Orthodox oikoumene*. That, despite all the peculiarities of the Soviet situation, is the proper context in which to study and evaluate this church.

In Volume I, which covers the period from 1917 to the end of the Second World War, the most interesting chapters are those in which Pospelovsky picks his way through the schisms of the Orthodox Left and Right in the first two post-revolutionary decades. The reader who has the patience to follow this complicated but significant story will arrive at a deeper appreciation of the diversity of Russian Orthodox life and thought and will also admire Pospelovsky's mastery of the subject.

In Volume II, the longest and liveliest chapter deals with developments in Russian Orthodox Church life since 1965. We are treated to information on such matters as the biographies of key hierarchs, the "recantation" of Father Dudko, the publication of an expanded Menaion, the tax bracket of the Orthodox clergy, even the rate paid by the church for electricity. Given the sorry state of the documentary record, many events and issues can scarcely be treated with much