There follows a sequence of chapters on Soviet social development after the war. Particularly stimulating are an essay by Sheila Fitzpatrick on the brutality of the regime and the movement of peasants off the land; a statistical investigation by Barbara Anderson and Brian Silver of Russification among the national minorities; and a study of postwar Leningrad by Edward Bubis and Blair A. Ruble. Some of these chapters, notably William Fletcher's study of "religion," make one wish for more concrete types of evidence. The chapters on the peasantry and on literature make no pretense to new research. But in general the greatest virtue of this book is the way it forces us to look away from any unified political interpretation of the era, and to recognize the sheer size and complexity of what we call the Soviet Union. Cynthia Kaplan voices the evidently conscious goal of the editors when she remarks (p. 168): "Although Stalin and his direct subordinates dominated the political process in the USSR, an exclusive focus upon them misses the informal aspects of political life."

This suggestion that we ought to change our focus calls attention to a limitation of the book. Though it stretches the mind, it also seemingly deliberately leaves out certain things. Those who know the period, for example, will acknowledge that the single greatest "change" in the Soviet Union between 1939 and 1953 was the rise of the army as a domestic force, justified by the country's lasting involvement in international affairs and its acquisition of an Eastern European empire. In this volume there is no chapter on the army, and apart from Robert Slusser's lapidary essay on the partition of Germany, only one or two hints that there was interplay between foreign and domestic affairs. Omitted also is the other main subject of the earlier literature: the Byzantine political behavior of Stalin and his satraps. Cynthia Kaplan, in her otherwise extremely interesting chapter on the Party, does not, for example, mention Zhidanov, Malenkóv, or Beria, nor does she list in a long bibliography the scholars who have written about those men. Jerry Hough who in a nicely argued well-documented and notably modest text explicitly addresses the famous end-of-the-war political "debates," likewise skirts the developments in the Kremlin, as if somehow they were not just beclouded by secrecy, but inconsequential. Sadly, these efforts to shift our focus have the result of burying a social phenomenon that had a key political impact in 1945: the wave of fundamentalist enthusiasm that swept not only the elite, but also the victorious nation. This is what seems to have thrown Stalin into high alarm at the end of the war. Chapter after chapter here talks past it without addressing it.

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The scope of this essay is much wider than its title suggests: the five chapters are headed "Censorship and Officially Sanctioned Culture," "Historical Background: Lenin and Stalin," "The Khrushchev Era: An Overview," "The Brezhnev Years and Beyond: An Overview," and "Current Cultural and Intellectual Trends." Overall it economically combines balanced outline with effective highlighting, and concludes with the reasonable prediction that Soviet cultural and intellectual life is likely to continue to exhibit "moderately repressive social conservatism and Russian nationalism" and with the striking suggestion of a similarity between current officially approved Soviet attitudes and those of Vichy France-"state uninspiring values of an aging society that seems to emphasize the past and distrust the future."

In the presentation of some of the complex uncertainties connected with the ethnic composition of the Soviet Union and with that state's relations with others, noteworthy
and welcome, besides the now customary references to peoples of Muslim tradition, are some shrewd observations about Siberia, and about deep Russian fears of China (this last, very important, anxiety seems often little realized by scholars whose knowledge of Soviet attitudes derives predominately from printed materials rather than from close contact with Soviet citizens). It is, however, unfortunate that the largely well-chosen bibliography was evidently compiled before the appearance of several works of exceptional significance or value, such as Aitmatov's extraordinary Central Asian novel, Scammell's monumental biography of Sолженицын, and the pioneering accounts of Soviet popular music and sung poetry by S. Frederick Starr and Gerald Stanton Smith.

One must admire an essay that covers so much, so briefly, so sensibly, so fluently. A historian of the subject may still be disconcerted or even dismayed, not by Professor Friedberg's application of the appropriate term "National Bolshevism" to the nationalistic and conservative Soviet Russian culture, but by the reference to that label in the enthusiastic foreword by Thane Gustafson (Director, Soviet Studies Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies) as "a term coined by Professor Friedberg." It is sad that many older discussions in various areas of Soviet studies seem forgotten. The expression "National Bolshevism" is certainly not a new coinage; a short account may conveniently be found in the still useful Concise Encyclopedia of Russia by S. V. Utechin published in 1961.

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