Russian society. This review can only briefly survey the varied contents of this volume.

By far, the most valuable contribution is Robert W. Thurston's overview of recent Western research on prerevolutionary Russia. Graduate students could do far worse to consult his guide. James Y. Simms, Jr. demonstrates how the 1891-92 famine rejuvenated radical groups and altered their internal and public discourse. Edward H. Judge describes how the evolving urban landscape in Russian Moldavia increased communal tensions in the years before the 1903 Kishinev pogrom. His second article explores how the tsarist state tried to use peasant resettlement as a tool for social control.

Mark Kulikowski painstakingly details the public appearance of various sections of the Rasputin legend. One hopes that his analysis of the content will not be far behind. Thad Radzilowski traces the evolution of historian Nikolai P. Pavlov-Silvanski's road to radicalism after the 1905 revolution by analyzing his scholarly work on feudalism. Scott J. Seregny explores the importance of the 1905 revolution in breaking down the barriers between peasants and their "foreign" teachers. Diane P. Koenker closes the volume with a penetrating study of worker control in 1917 revolutionary Moscow.

Like many collections, the unifying thread does not run very deep. Several papers read as if they are preparing the ground for future research. The result is a pastiche that often satisfies but other times whets the appetite for more.

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The essays in this volume are based on papers presented at a conference in Jerusalem in January 1988. The conference was held to commemorate the retirement of Israel Getzler, professor of Russian history at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. As befits a scholar of Getzler's stature, the gathering, and the resulting Festschrift, attracted a diverse and distinguished list of participants, among them Edward Acton, Jonathan Frankel, Diane P. Koenker, Rex A. Wade, and Getzler himself.

The theme of the volume is the reassessment of the realities and "alternatives" of Russia in 1917, or, more precisely, the period from March 1917 to April 1918. The key questions considered are whether Russian conditions "preordained" the triumph of the Bolsheviks and the resulting character of their dictatorship, or whether another outcome, be it a democratic socialist regime or a right-wing dictatorship, was possible. The degree to which the different essays address these questions varies widely, and there is no definitive answer to any.

The volume is organized into five sections, each consisting of three or four essays addressing a general theme. The first section, "Political Power and Mass Action," focuses on the character and role of Popular, "revolutionary" bodies
such as soviets (Getzler and Donald Raleigh) and the Red Guards (Wade). Such organizations, the authors agree, embodied an authentic democratic spirit, a fact that led to their subsequent emasculation or suppression under the Bolshevik regime. Looking to the right, Allan Wildman's examination of the Russian officer corps' involvement in the failed Kornilov putsch is an interesting study of a movement with too many (but few capable) chiefs and no Indians, and, more broadly, of the political weakness of the Russian right.

Part II, "Peasants, Workers and Bourgeoisie," examines class and economic relations in town and country. Most interesting is John Channon's piece on the revolution in the countryside that shows the peasantry as very capable of managing their political and economic affairs with little or no input from the outside. Koenker, William Rosenberg and David Mandel look at the attitudes of urban and provincial workers. Koenker and Rosenberg note that while strike activity escalated in the summer of 1917, the workers' attitudes remained generally "moderate" and "public spirited." Mandel's study of pro-Bolshevik cotton workers describes a more polarized situation. Finally, Ziva Galili looks at the conflict between "progressive" and conservative business-industrial circles, and the gradual decline of the former. Overall, this is the best section of the book.

The next section looks at the issue of nationality with essays by Ronald Grigor Suny, Stephen Jones and Ingeborg Fleischauer. Suny takes a broad, comparative look at class and ethnicity as competing forces of social identification and mobilization. Jones and Fleischauer examine, respectively, the experiences and responses of Georgian Social Democrats and ethnic Germans.

In Part IV Neil Harding, Robert Service and John Keep address, from varying perspectives, the evolution of Lenin's thought and his role as driving force of the Bolshevik Party before and after October. The most interesting essay of the three is Keep's, which provides valuable data on the composition of the early Sovnarkom and its devaluation into a repressive apparatus at the center of a repressive state.

The last section, with essays by D. A. Longley, Edward Acton and Baruch Knei-Paz, offers theoretical and historiographic reappraisals of 1917. This is the least satisfying section. Longley's article, the only piece to examine the February Revolution, is largely concerned with subsequent Bolshevik theorizing about the Party's role (or non-role) in the event. Knei-Paz, in a broad reconsideration of Russian Marxism, particularly its Leninist and Stalinist permutations, offers that the latter was not necessarily an inevitable outgrowth of the former. Acton's examination of the validity of "libertarian" critiques of the Revolution (as opposed to "liberal" and Soviet ones) is provocative, but the comparison is much better developed in his Rethinking the Russian Revolution (1990).

Acton's case represents the main shortcoming of this volume. The research and ideas presented here may have been fresh in 1987 or 1988, but in the interim other publications and the rapid pace of events have rendered the volume a bit dated. Moreover, the "reassessments" of 1917 presented here are mostly minor and do not significantly alter the understanding of the period. Still, anyone