from new businesses, and less from transfer payments and salaries from large farms. Contrary to many analyses of Russian agriculture, these authors have identified and quantified an entrepreneurial spirit among rural Russians.

Furthermore, the findings shed new light on the "gloom and doom" analyses that are common about rural Russia. The authors argue that there is sufficient social and human capital in a number of economic regions "to support a viable household-based agriculture." The authors argue that households have more efficiently utilized their sources of capital, and at the same time they remain reluctant to cut all ties with larger enterprises. This latter occurrence is explained by the lack of an adequate market infrastructure, thereby continuing household dependence on larger farms for services and inputs. Alleged rural conservatism stems from a "distrust of reformers in Moscow who have... not shown much interest in supporting the development of household enterprises."

Since reviewers are expected to raise some criticisms, there are a few I would note. A definition of what the "agrarian problem" is in Russia is never provided, and therefore it is not entirely clear how the findings fit the title of the book. The book is narrowly focused on data analysis from the survey, and a reader unfamiliar with Russian agrarian reform probably would not come away with an overall sense of major trends. Some tables are hard to decipher and could be presented more clearly. Finally, the bibliography does not reflect a wide reading of the specialized literature on Russian agrarian reform. Standard, and widely known works do not appear in the bibliography.

Those criticisms aside, there is much to admire about this book. It is theoretically driven and offers testable hypotheses. The statistical methods are sophisticated and lead to important insights. The data and findings are original and intriguing, providing a host of questions for further research. In sum, O'Brien and his colleagues have contributed a valuable volume to the growing literature on Russian agrarian reform. The specialist on Russian agrarian reform would do well to make this book mandatory reading.

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The chapters in this book analyze the history, politics, culture, economics, regional government and urban structure of Yaroslavl' to provide greater insight into Russia’s democratic transition. The book’s premise is that the Russian transition to democracy cannot succeed without a corresponding transition at the local level. However, this premise is not simply accepted as an assumption; instead in chapter 1, Professor Hahn provides a thoughtful discussion of the literature relating national democracy to democracy at the local (here including regional) level. After considering the insights offered by a wide variety of sources, Hahn seems to endorse the conclusion of conver-
gence theory that "the performance of any type of political system depends on the degree of congruence between the authority patterns of national government and other units in society, including local government" (p. 6). While the authors understand that no single one of Russia's regions and republics is fully representative of all eighty-nine Russian components, they contend that Yaroslavl' is both an important region and fairly typical of ethnically Russian regions.

The history of Yaroslavl' provided in chapter 2 is fascinating, but only the latter parts of the chapter are well tied to the issue of democratization. A similar conclusion is warranted for the discussion of Yaroslavl's economy provided in chapter 6. The most interesting conclusion from that chapter is the prominence attributed to the role of so-called "new entrepreneurs" in Russian politics. The other chapters cluster much more tightly around the question of regional democratization. In chapter 3, Hahn assesses the political transformation of Yaroslavl's institutions and elections. He contends that Russian democracy is largely "delegated" democracy, in which the people elect a boss, but have little control over the boss once elected (p. 68). Nonetheless, Russian elections are far more democratic than before the Soviet collapse. In chapter 4 Hahn analyzes the changing level of support for democracy in Russian political culture. He concludes that after 1990 there was some decline in the level of Russian cultural support for democracy, but this decline is not as dramatic as some have suggested, and it may even be a temporary phenomenon. Moreover, Hahn reminds us that periods of cynicism about politics and politicians are fairly common in many stable Western democracies. In chapter 5 Boris Sergeyev finds that a high level of political cynicism limits the "maneuvering room" of Russian politicians. At the same time, improvements in economic conditions, at either the national or personal level, "may not convince ordinary Russians that governmental policies are responding to their needs and wants" (pp. 134-35). In chapter 7 Beth Mitchneck uses regional governance regimes to provide a fascinating comparison of Yaroslavl' and Udmurtia. She concludes that the different patterns of local policy formation are explicable by Yaroslavl's use of a "preservation" regime relative to Udmurtia's use of a "financier" regime. The final substantive chapter, by Susan Goodrich Lehmann and Blair Ruble, is a thoughtful discussion of the changing patterns of urban living. They find that income inequalities in Yaroslavl' "are creating a society in which the wealthy and/or well connected are moving into the center city, while their less-fortunate neighbors are left to occupy a belt surrounding the downtown" (p. 220). While this pattern no doubts has implications for the evolution of democracy in Russia, the authors do not sufficiently address this question.

The editor concludes the book with the argument that while Yaroslavl' is a much more democratic place than just a decade ago, the democratic forms which were introduced have not always led to democratic norms and practices. On the one hand, elections do not feature multiple parties, and democracy remains largely "delegative." Moreover, political relations tend to be largely personal, rather than ideological or political. (Yet this has certainly been true at times in many Western democracies.) On the other hand, some of the declines in cultural support for democracy may be temporary. Nonetheless, the author finds the signs of backsliding at the regional level worri-