

ELDRIDGE, F. R. *Dangerous Thoughts on the Orient*. Pp. ix, 292. New York: D. Appleton-Century Company, 1933. \$2.50.

Mr. Eldridge is one of the comparatively few Americans who have attempted to justify the recent activities of Japan on the Asian continent; and he speaks with a large measure of authority, due to his long residence in the Orient in both official and private life.

The author frankly embraces the Japanese line of argument that Japan's action in Manchuria was dictated by economic, social, and political necessity. The contention that Japan should have been guided by her obligations to the League, he counters by advancing the theory that the League is a static organization designed to protect the *status quo* of the smaller nations of Europe; that they saw in Japan's action a menace to their own security, and therefore voted unanimously against her. He would have it that Japan is the real protagonist of order, safety, and progress in the Far East, and that it is really the League, and not Japan, that is on trial before the world.

This argument entails the usual criticism of China and of the powerlessness, the insincerity, and the duplicity of the Chinese Government. There follows a description of Communist agitation in Japan and how it drove the people into the arms of the conservative elements. We are assured, however, though it does not appear on what authority, that "Japan has no desire to encroach upon Russian territory." The author adds, "If Russia can be held in check by peaceful means, Japan has no desire to fight her."

We have seen no more able presentation of the Japanese case. The latter half of the volume describes some of the outstanding features of Japan's cultural heritage.

H. K. NORTON

New York City

WOODHEAD, H. G. W. (Ed.). *The China Year Book 1933*. Pp. xvi, 786. Shanghai: The North China Daily News and Herald, Ltd., 1933. \$12.50.

This volume continues a series which goes back to 1912. From the beginning it has

been under the able editorship of Mr. H. G. W. Woodhead, formerly of Tientsin and now of Shanghai. The volumes of this series are the most valuable single source of information about China under the republic available to the Western World. Without this series no library can pretend to be equipped to deal with current events in China and the Far East; with this series, a substantial beginning has been made.

The current number is similar to the earlier ones in this respect, that it contains more than one has any good reason to expect in a year book. It offers the reader a whole collection of documents some of which are hard to find elsewhere, and it contains information much of which is simply not to be found elsewhere. Where else is one to look for a record of the recent meetings of the Kuomintang, for a complete list of cotton mills in China, for a statement of the revenues and expenditures of the city government of Greater Shanghai, for statistical information covering both Catholic and Protestant missions in China, for the financial statement of the central Bank of China, and for the documents touching the abolition of the *tael* as a money of account in China? *The China Year Book* is not to be regarded as a mere summary and convenient collection of information available elsewhere; it is for all practical purposes the source of much of the information which it presents.

But it has the weakness of its virtues. If it does present much material which is indispensable, it does not summarize, digest, and compare as perhaps it ought. There is an absence of index numbers, of percentages, and other convenient devices for measuring growth and change. There are, for example, no price statistics or price indices. There is little effort to provide totals which may be subjected to year-to-year comparison. If any improvement were to be suggested here, it would be the selection of certain fields for which to make general comparisons in an introductory or concluding chapter. I appreciate fully how difficult it has been to give the world as much as Mr. Woodhead has been able to bring together, but I find myself unable to put the book down without wishing that there were a summary of significant facts.

The 1933 issue of *The China Year Book* contains new information on the subject of climate. The chapter on labor is unusually complete. The subjects of currency, finance, and communications have been dealt with in such a way as to give new or more complete information. There is an excellent chapter on the Sino-Japanese dispute. And the student is urged not to overlook the brief preface in which Mr. Woodhead brings down to the date of printing his account of important events.

Looking back over the whole array of volumes—and the Year Book for 1933 is the fifteenth—one who knows something of the course of events in China feels that Mr. Woodhead is to be congratulated and thanked for having achieved the carrying on of this series without interruption. The current number places more information at the disposal of its reader than does any other current publication on China.

C. F. REMER

University of Michigan

VINACKE, HAROLD M. *A History of the Far East in Modern Times*. Rev. ed. Pp. xv, 503. New York: F. S. Crofts & Company, 1933. \$6.00.

Four chapters of the original 1928 edition of this book have been rewritten, in spite of the old titling of Chapter XX in the Contents, bringing the narrative of nineteenth-century China, Japan, and Korea, up to 1933. The author's analysis of early American reactions in Asia should profit by use of H. F. MacNair's essay in *Survey of American Foreign Relations, 1930*, not to speak of MacNair's revision of Morse's history, unfortunately omitted from the reading lists appended to each chapter. So also with certain economic monographs.

The larger and smaller chronological zig-zags of the volume illustrate the difficulty the author finds generally in tying the strands of the story together into a real integration. Adding the three chapters on cultural progress to his political narrative still fails to provide us a perspective over the logical and interrelated rôles of these aspects. That may be the penalty we must pay for some years for desiring in one volume all the facts and opinions the

author offers us; a thoroughgoing, integrated analysis of modern trends is as sorely needed as a really penetrating analysis of the old cultures of the Far East. Still, Mr. Vinacke's volume is at present useful to the student for perspective, for reference, and for bibliography.

MAURICE T. PRICE

University of Chicago

TANNENBAUM, FRANK. *Peace by Revolution*. Pp. 317. New York: Columbia University Press, 1933. \$3.50.

The main emphasis of this volume is upon the period since 1910, but a third of it deals with the four centuries of Mexican history that preceded. It includes a historical discussion of race, religion, and politics, but these serve as a background for a more extensive treatment of the land, labor, and educational policies of the epoch since 1910, which is known in Mexico as "The Revolution." The church problem is discussed with fine understanding and without prejudice. The program of the Revolution is set forth with deepest sympathy.

The whole work is written with kindly appreciation for the Mexican masses and in excellent style. The drawings of the artist are effective. Tannenbaum has attempted to present a synthesis. He has subordinated details and endeavored to give unity and meaning to Mexican history. Perhaps his story is too simple, but he would probably be the first to admit this, since he appears to have a full realization of the complexity of the subject. He confronted a choice between over-simplification and confusion, and he preferred the simplicity of a central theme. He contends that Mexican national history reveals a general trend and that this trend has been in the direction of "undoing" the Spanish Conquest and ejecting the elements of culture imposed by the Conquest and three centuries of colonial rule.

The author's viewpoint is correct and illuminating, if not followed too narrowly. The tendency has been to reject the ancient aristocracy and the ancient exploiters, to abolish special privileges, and to reverse the former disposition to repress and defame the Indians and the mixed breeds.