

CARLO FRATESCHI AND GIANNI SALVINI, Eds., *A Comparative Analysis of Economic Reforms in Central and East Europe*. Aldershot, England/Brookfield, VT: Dartmouth Pub. Co., 1992. xiv + 209 pp., no index, no price.

This book contains nine papers from an international conference on "The Socialist Enterprise between Autonomy and Constraints," held in September 1989 at the University of Padua.

Jan Winiecki (Poland) examines the obstacles to economic reform in industrial enterprises due to opposition from rent-seeking managers and bureaucrats with political influence.

Ruud Knaack (The Netherlands) appraises some of Gorbachev's economic reform efforts and reasons for their failure.

Bruno Dallago (Italy) suggests how reforming socialist economies should combine some macroeconomic planning with market guidance of microeconomic decisions.

Silvana Malle (Italy) analyzes changes in employment in the USSR and the role of cooperatives in absorbing redundant workers, as part of a shift of the labor force from extractive and manufacturing branches to services.

Andrzej Breski (United States) reflects on some reasons for the failure of Polish economic reform efforts from the mid-1950's to the late 1980's.

Gianni Salvini (Italy) compares some aspects of cooperative and individual enterprise in the USSR and China.

Marie Lavigne (France) discusses the organization of foreign trade and incentives to export in Eastern Europe and the USSR.

Giovanni Graziani (Italy) documents the USSR's dependence on exports of raw materials and fuels and its weakness in the export of manufactured goods.

Carlo Frateschi (Italy) reviews changes in East European countries' foreign-trade strategies from import-substitution to export-promotion.

As often occurs in such collections, the papers vary considerably in length, originality, theoretical sophistication, use of empirical data, and clarity of exposition. The stronger contributions include the essays by Winiecki, Malle, and Lavigne.

However, with dramatic changes in the economic conditions, systems, and policies in Eastern Europe and the USSR since 1989, the papers in this volume are unfortunately outdated. On all of the topics more recent, and more substantial, treatments are available in other sources.

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