

it is that despite strictly controlled voting, many of them nevertheless have a part to play on behalf of interest groups, regardless of how much these groups may tend to exert their influence directly on the members of the executive departments.

If there is any flaw in the picture which he presents it is that it may perhaps slightly overemphasize the role of the backbenchers in the formation of governmental policy, in legislation, and in administration. This is perhaps just as well, because there is need for a corrective to the current exaggeration of the contrary. This book is a strictly political analysis—its value will be greatest for those who have already some knowledge of the basic theory and practice of British government and parliamentary procedure.

PETER A. BROMHEAD

Senior Lecturer in Politics
The Durham Colleges
University of Durham

ARNOLD KRAMISH. *Atomic Energy in the Soviet Union*. Pp. x, 232. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 1959. \$4.75.

After World War II, the United States and Great Britain issued comprehensive reports on the development of their atomic energy programs and subsequently supplemented them by period progress reports. The author, a member of the research staff of The RAND Corporation, sets out to supply similar information for the Soviet Union. He has screened many thousands of issues of Soviet newspapers and technical journals for this purpose. He has succeeded in giving the general reader a full, revealing, and stimulating account of past Soviet atomic energy research and its future aims.

The author shows that Soviet nuclear research started in earnest in the decade after 1920 and that, by 1940, it was evident "that in theoretical ideas and in knowledge of experimental techniques Soviet scientists were equal to their counterparts in the West" (p. 21). They scored a remarkable number of "firsts": Among other discoveries for which they are justified in claiming priority, they were the first

to observe the flight path of cosmic rays (p. 6), the first to observe a laboratory nuclear reaction caused in bombardment by cosmic particles (p. 7), the first in Europe to use a cyclotron (p. 19), and they were the first, in 1940, to obtain conclusive proof of the spontaneous fission of uranium (p. 28).

Contrary to the United States and Great Britain, the Soviets, in June, 1941, almost completely stopped their atomic research and concentrated instead on problems of immediate urgency. The author suggests a number of reasons for this decision and emphasizes that "there is a good deal of evidence that the Soviet political leaders did not become fully aware of the military aspects of nuclear energy until it was too late for them to transform their large-scale research effort into a development and production program" (p. 36).

In 1943, Soviet scientists resumed their research, and in November, 1947, Molotov could state that the Soviet Union knew the secret of the atom bomb. In 1949 the Soviets exploded their first atomic weapon and in 1953 their first hydrogen device, and they were the first to start work on the H-bomb (p. 127). In 1949 Soviet scientists commenced work on the peaceful use of atomic energy and put the first atomic power plant which delivers electric current into operation (p. 144).

My main impressions, after reading this valuable book, are: first, Soviet espionage seems to have played a smaller part in their advance in nuclear physics than is commonly assumed; second, Soviet scientists would have been capable of developing the atomic bomb during the last war and had they done so, the years after 1945 might have been less peaceful for the West; third, further advances in controlled thermonuclear research are likely and, as the author points out (p. 209), "the Soviet Union stands a very good chance of establishing further thermonuclear guideposts of political and technical significance."

OTTO HEILBRUNN

Gerrards Cross
Bucks, England

U. W. KITZINGER. *German Electoral Politics: A Study of the 1957 Campaign*.

Pp. ix, 365. New York: Oxford University Press, 1960. \$7.20.

This study of the 1957 West German Bundestag election is dubbed by its author "as being of the Neanderthal variety" and "sets out to be no more than one observer's very personal impressions corroborated or modified by the observations of colleagues with more detailed knowledge of the campaign in certain areas of the Federal Republic." It seeks, as the author tells us, "to continue the series of Nuffield election studies which has now been carried on for twelve years."

Clearly the author is a modest man, and his accomplishments in the book demonstrate at least that he has learned a lot of German politics in a very few years. In fact, in addition to presenting an excellent analysis of the strategy and tactics of the campaign, not to mention its various detailed facets, Mr. Kitzinger has particularly distinguished himself in a number of chapters, for instance Chapters IV, X, and XIV which deal with the process of selecting candidates, campaign finance, and voting behavior. Here for the first time in English we have a good explanation of the German nominating procedure. True, it is not a thorough analysis of all the contests, but as the author correctly says "a sketch of the patterns that seem to have emerged." Similarly, the very sophisticated discussion in Chapter X, together with a detailed Appendix of campaign expenditures, is a very helpful contribution.

Elsewhere in this very readable and useful volume, the author illuminates other dark corners of German politics to give a complete picture of the 1957 election. For instance in the explanation of party mergers and alliances, of the influence of the churches, trade unions, and other interest groups, and in the analysis of campaign media, the author is clear, precise, and adequate. To be sure, any important election deserves and could include more than one brief volume. Actually an earlier German study of the 1953 election is nearly twice as large as the present one under review. But in *German Electoral Politics* the reader is given a reasonably intensive and inclusive analysis of this crucial Ger-

man election of 1957 which adds luster to the long list of Nuffield College election studies and brings great credit to the author and his few collaborators.

The book includes, in addition to the special Appendix on campaign expenditures mentioned above, three illuminating, detailed studies of local constituencies: one from Lower Saxony, one from Bavaria, and one from the Rhineland. These analyses add depth and local color and detail to the over-all review.

The author concludes his study of the election by pointing out that it was the usual nonvoter who voted in 1957 who "gave the Government its resounding victory" and that "C.D.U.'s absolute majority of votes was won only with the help of the postal voters." Making good use of the rich German electoral data, without exhausting it, and observing electoral phenomena very acutely, Kitzinger has given us a welcome and quite indispensable contribution to an understanding of politics in the Federal Republic.

JAMES K. POLLOCK

Professor and Chairman
Department of Political Science
University of Michigan

DOUGLAS V. VERNEY. *Public Enterprise in Sweden*. Pp. x, 132. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 1959. 21s, net.

Sweden's welfare state is not built primarily upon the basis of public ownership. The welfare state comprises a system of social insurances, co-operatives, public aids to housing, collective bargaining, and a redistribution of income via transfer payments and taxes. Still, though Sweden is basically a private enterprise country, public enterprises contribute not a little to her highly developed welfare state.

Unlike Britain, Sweden has not achieved her public enterprises by means of a program of nationalization. There has been little threat to private enterprise, and cordial relations exist between the public and private sectors. The state and private enterprise, for example, may collaborate in building a power station. In the case of electric power the state generates about 40 per cent of the aggregate power produced.