

Moslems and World Peace." There are twelve maps in the text, several of them quite unique. There are a bibliography and five appendices which give tables of countries and populations, dynasties, and statistics on oil.

Some points which seem to the reviewer to be important are passed over or touched only lightly, marring the value of the book; for example, there is no mention of the part played by German agents and influence in bringing about the fall of Riza Shah in Iran in 1941. Too little attention is given to the role of the Axis powers in the Arab troubles in the early days of World War II. Although these omissions are not serious, there are enough to merit the caution that the author's results and political analyses should be compared with other interpretations before a final judgment is formed. Such omissions and questionable analyses, however, are balanced by the more numerous instances where the author has brought out elements often too lightly stressed or has given us a pattern of treatment which can be used profitably to gauge situations over the entire Islamic scene.

It is to the author's credit that he does not indulge in casual optimism or dwell too long on the note of deep despair at the situation which confronts the Western world in dealing with this world of the Crescent. It is also to his credit that he is willing to suggest a solution to the unrest and to the danger caused by it. He calls for the "stabilization of the intercontinent," but cautions that the existing situation cannot be the basis for it.

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The Middle East: A Political and Economic Survey. By THE ROYAL INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS. (2d ed.; London and New York. 1954. RIIA. Pp. xviii, 590. \$6.50.)

Like the 1950 edition of this authoritative handbook on the Middle East, the new Chatam House publication maintains the standard of excellence in scholarly analysis, conciseness, and balance that is expected of the Royal Institute of International Affairs. Since the second edition incorporates throughout a vast array of new data on political and economic problems, it largely supersedes the earlier work. The volume is divided into two parts. The introductory portion presents in a condensed but meaningful survey the historical background, religious elements, and socio-economic aspects of the Middle East. The bulk of the volume is then devoted to a country-by-country analysis, including Arabia, Cyprus, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Iran (Persia), Sudan, Syria, Lebanon, and Turkey. A fairly reasonable apportionment of space is maintained between various countries in terms of the relative significance of the respective areas. Inclusion of the sheikdoms of Arabia is most valuable in view of their inter-

national importance due to oil explorations which are now proceeding in the protectorates. Ordinarily Cyprus is not considered as part of the Middle East, but its new strategic orientation toward that area certainly justifies its inclusion in the handbook. The same applies to Sudan in view of its intricate involvement in Egyptian affairs. The most useful feature of the work is the socio-economic analysis of each of the areas involved, which is quite thorough, and equals in size the space devoted to historic and governmental materials. The soundness of this interpretation appears to rest on the assumption that the economic development and well-being of the area are prerequisite to its political stability, a point which certainly is open to question or modification. Political and economic factors can rarely be separated in any meaningful analysis.

Here is not merely a compendium of vital facts, figures, and statistical tables; as noted in the preface, an interpretative thread runs throughout the survey. The new materials introduced convey the impression that a distinct cleavage in the pace of political and socio-economic changes persists in the Middle East. Even a cursory reference to political events since 1950 explodes the myth of the unchanging East. Dynamic changes in politics are symptomatic of national growth, increased political consciousness, and individual awakening in all corners of the area. The year 1954 marks a turning point in the domestic and international fortunes of the Middle East in that old headaches were resolved and new gains consolidated. The age-long Suez Canal dispute closed with the removal of British forces from Egypt to Cyprus. The turbulent Anglo-Iranian oil dispute ended in a compromise settlement. A military dictatorship toppled in Syria while in Egypt the military held the tide against reactionary forces. New rulers in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Jordan personified the passing of the old order and inauguration of modern statecraft. True, the Israeli-Arab tension and the Arab refugee issue remains unresolved, but on the whole a mellowing has superseded the turbulence of the postwar years. Even the readjustment of the Arab world toward the requirements of world security is taking place within the framework of newly acquired Middle Eastern responsibilities.

In marked contrast the socio-economic level shows less basic improvement. Here one notes creeping evolution rather than dynamic change. The work on the whole is realistic in its appraisal of economic trends. It is noted that some gains are registered in Point IV operations, in the new life centering in towns, and in scattered land reform programs. Still the drawbacks are equally impressive in the vast backwardness of the peasantry, the lack of active labor-union movements, the magnitude of the demographic problem that stultifies reforms and the absence of a well-established concept of public welfare. What is most disheartening is the failure of

leadership to consolidate a social revolution. This gap between oft-proclaimed political aspirations and economic realities conjures up the fate of China and indeed tests the efficacy of nascent liberal forces as expounded by the small but expressive middle class. Whether Westernizers and reformers will survive only time can answer.

Contributors to this volume display the usual Western penchant for statistics. This attempt to give exactness to socio-economic problems may amaze the Easterners themselves. The statistics must be treated as approximations, despite the reliance on United Nations and government sources, as the authors themselves point out. The thorough revision is welcome though the handbook can scarcely keep up with fast-changing events, as a glance at the postscript will indicate. The appendix contains two useful maps of the area as well as statistical data on population, agricultural production, national income, trade, and oil production. A helpful reading list points to a few well chosen sources on the Middle East.

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Poland: White Eagle on a Red Field. By SAMUEL L. SHARP. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press. 1953. Pp. vii, 326. \$5.00.)

Ever since its last partition in the eighteenth century Poland's fate has been determined by neighboring foreign powers. Operating frequently from posts in exile, Polish diplomacy has been characterized by steady, if futile, efforts to place the issue of independence on the agenda of major international conferences. Not until the first World War did these efforts bear fruit, only to be lost again in the storm of a second, and even greater, holocaust. Today Poland is again a helpless pawn in the great game of power politics. To attempt an analysis of her unfortunate position is by no means an easy task.

In *Poland: White Eagle on a Red Field* Professor Sharp has given us a penetrating insight into the traditional problem of Polish independence. He has brought to his task an exceptional background of experience. Born in Poland and educated at the University of Warsaw, he served as parliamentary correspondent in the last prewar years, and in 1940 was editor with the information services of the Polish government-in-exile, then established in France. In the United States he worked for the United Press, and in 1943 joined the Army. Becoming an officer, he served in the OSS as a political analyst in Washington and in Europe. He revisited Poland in 1948 on a travel grant from the Harvard Russian Research Center. His present volume on Poland will long remain an important source of information for serious students of international affairs.