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East-West Trade at a Crossroads: Economic Relations with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe by Robert V. Roosa; Armin Gutowski; Michiya Matsukawa

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fragile oligarchies—with conservative judiciaries sensitive to property rights—in which landed elites have major political weight, implement successful, gradualist land reforms? Perhaps the surprise is that they even try.

The final three chapters on the politics of land reform, the economics of land reform, and the case for land to the tiller are commendable.

Criticism lies in four directions:

1. The tone of assessment is profoundly—really too—negative until a late passage admits that tenure reforms and particularly ceilings have made some difference.

2. The problem of what to do with terms like “class,” “feudal,” and “exploitation” is never resolved—footnote apologies abound.

3. Having touched base with all appropriate authorities and ideologies, Herring succumbs to employing numbing jargonish overkill. The book often sounds like it was written by a multidisciplinary committee guided by peculiar voting rules that robbed it of the power to eschew any term or idea whatsoever, yielding a product that reminds one too often of Carmen Miranda’s fruited hattery.

4. There is no controlling macrosocial process specified to structure the microanalysis, a failing best illustrated in Herring’s total incapacity to come to grips with the brute fact that there are now far too many people in rural South Asia for land redistribution to provide adequate livings for anything like most of them. And they are multiplying while the land is not.

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ROOSA, ROBERT V., ARMIN GUTOWSKI, and MICHIO MATSUKAWA. *East-West Trade at a Crossroads: Economic Relations with the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe*. Pp. vi, 119. New York: New York University Press, 1982. \$15.00.

This study was authorized by the Trilateral Commission to evaluate the potential

for cooperation and mutual benefit of trade between the Trilateral Nations—the United States, Europe, and Japan—and the Soviet bloc. The constraints of contrasting political systems and strategic, military aims of these two world communities restrict the potential gains of free trade between their respective member nations. The spirit of détente led to mutual endeavors, and East-West trade expanded sixfold during the 1970s. This rapid growth of economic integration has raised questions about the political, military, and economic consequences of further interdependence between and among the member nations of these two world communities. The policy framework for trade explicitly recognizes the limitations of economic relations that could damage the military or strategic capability of either side. The obvious environment is that détente may not be in force with respect to military or foreign policy positions in the 1980s; however, the mutual benefits of expanded trade between these parties can be advocated with appropriate safeguards to protect the strategic positions of both sides. The romantic hopes of détente are replaced with realistic programs that, through economic interdependence without dependence, can lead to a peaceful coexistence with mutual gain. The implicit thesis of the study is the mutual benefits to nations following the principle of cooperative advantage.

The conclusions of the study center on the benefits that can result from expanding trade with the Soviet bloc. The first conclusion is that expanded trade would not weaken Western security given the expansion of a trilateral agency to continue a veto right to prohibit technological exports that would enhance the Soviet military position; the existing informal procedure of a gentleman’s agreement to restrict the flow of technology is inadequate. The second conclusion is that the economic dynamism of Western economies will ensure the continued economic superiority of the West; this includes a proposal for a unified approach to bring a cooperative framework on issues of sanctions, trade limits, and credit arrangements via existing international agencies or new

alignments among Western nations. The final conclusion is that expanded trade would provide valuable markets and resources for the West. The areas for obvious trade expansion are energy, agriculture, and technology. The factor endowments of the two communities are such that the gains are significant for both without sacrificing the strategic position of either by prudent diversification of sales and purchases. This last conclusion could be enhanced with an expanded financial system to extend credit without a barter system due to the nonconvertible nature of many Eastern country currencies.

The history of East-West trade is most interesting. The grain embargo by the United States and the conflict with European allies on the Urengoi pipeline demonstrate the weakness of diplomatic or economic measures as sanctions to punish adversaries for their behavior. To pursue sanctions that damage our economic interests or our allies without adversely affecting our political adversary is to shoot ourselves in the foot. The grain embargo shows the ultimate fallacy of grain as a weapon. Expanding trade with the East is a much more effective weapon given that political, military, and technological consequences can be best achieved with multilateral agreements. This is a most insightful and persuasive argument. The non-economist can comprehend the concepts, and the economist can learn of the need for political integration.

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WEINSTEIN, BARBARA. *The Amazon Rubber Boom, 1850-1920*. Pp. xi, 356. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1983. \$29.50.

In the rapidly developing literature on neocolonial development in the Third World, a series of recent studies of the Brazilian economy has provided important clarification of the relations between indigenous

socioeconomic life and international capitalist systems. Barbara Weinstein's original and rigorous study of the flamboyant rubber era in Brazil is a welcome addition to the discussion, particularly as it provides one of the first important studies of a region that now faces massive ecological disruption. Previous, more superficial discussions of the Amazonian rubber boom of the late nineteenth century noted that it was suddenly ended around 1910 by Britain's successful introduction of more efficient plantation rubber from Southeast Asia. They asked why the Brazilian rubber industry failed to modernize to match its competitors' efficiency. Weinstein provides a convincing answer, by concentrating less on the role of international finance capital than on the peculiar system of Amazonian rubber production and marketing, a system so complex and decentralized that nothing could make it more efficient, especially not the modern business methods of foreign investors.

The task of reconstructing the system was by no means easy, for archives on Amazonian history are more limited than on other regions of Brazil such as Sao Paulo and its hinterland, where the coffee boom, based similarly on production for world markets, did contribute in a major way to sustained industrialization. In order to supplement scanty state and municipal records in Amazonia, Weinstein slowly constructed a composite picture of land ownership and use through files of business contracts and debt agreements, and records of land sales and estate inventories.

The resulting picture of rubber extraction begins with the subsistence-based rubber tapper, often an immigrant from the poverty-stricken Northeast, who searched each stretch of jungle for its occasional *hevea* tree. He then sold his accumulated rubber to an itinerant trader in the employ of commercial firms in Manaus or Belem, who could control the price paid to the tapper and who was the tapper's source of both commercial goods and food to supplement a meager home-grown diet. This system of production and credit, stretched thin over a vast landscape, easily resisted all efforts of urban and