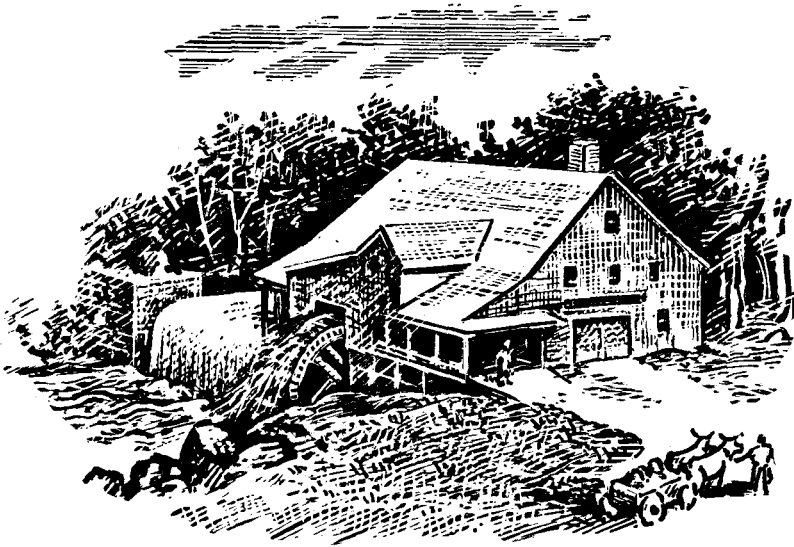


unmatched east of the Rockies. About half way between the northern and southern limits of the two states is the Great Smoky range, veiled usually in a mist or haze of blue. But partly because of the legend-name and partly because no adequate term is used for the composite mountains of the southern shoulder of the Appalachians, the term Smoky Mountains is popularly used for the entire area. It is thus that North Callahan presents the region in the twenty-fourth volume in the American Folkways Series.

It is a country rich in natural beauty where a man-made culture, picturesque and quaint, as a product of isolation, has maintained itself. But recently its scenic resource has been discovered by the American tourists, who import themselves each summer

He knows their politics, too, and pictures it as being as rugged as the mountain gorge and as genuine as the rings in the tails of Tennessee coons. In using the anecdotal worth of these themes Callahan has chosen to concentrate on the western side of the Smokies reaching as far over as the Cumberlands. One wonders what the governor of North Carolina will have to say to the governor of Tennessee when they meet after reading that the Great Smoky Mountains have a relatively blank side on the east.

The march of events which permeated this land is closely associated with our nation's history although it is still relatively unknown. From the days of Daniel Boone it has experienced such engagements as King's Mountain in the Revolution and ac-



to inspect the work of God, visit the Cherokee Reservation, and sit in the cool forest amphitheatre to view the stirring pageant, "Unto These Hills," with its historic theme of tragedy and pathos when the Red Men were forced to quit their beloved mountains.

The Smoky Mountain country has an export too. It is the ballad music of the uplands and their neighboring valleys which all America has taken to itself as a partial antidote for the dullness and sameness of our over-centralized culture.

North Callahan is a native of this area and writes with a pleasant nostalgic desire to escape his New York quarters and return whenever possible. He tells of the interesting doings of his homeland and of the vital spirit of its people, who prize freedom most highly and who were such staunch sons of the Union as to remain loyal during the Civil War. He has captured the details of their way of life, their expressive dialect, and their music with its modern troubadours, Eddie Arnold, Roy Acuff, and the gang on the radio program, "Grand Ole Opry."

tion of both amateur and professional armies in the Civil War. It has known bitter personal feuds between such men as Jackson and John Sevier and more pleasant contests such as the famed gubernatorial contest between the brothers Taylor, Democrat and Republican, who fiddled and spoke their way through the "War of the Roses."

Unfortunately the author is not as much at home with the historical narrative as he is with the generation of his father and himself. His research is incomplete and his writing marred by fundamental errors of fact. How could "almost two hundred thousand persons" have "poured into the Smoky Mountain country through the Cumberland Gap," by 1790 when the flow of migration was in the other direction? How could the independent state of Franklin have sought and failed to secure annexation to North Carolina because the latter feared an increase in federal taxes, when the Franklinites were in revolt from North Carolina, the parent state of the overmountain men?

Together

HEAVENS ON EARTH: Utopian Communities in America 1680-1880. By Mark Holloway. Library Publishers, New York. \$4.75. That man's lot on earth can be improved by deliberate effort is the essential belief of every social reformer. That such improvement can come at a single stroke is the belief of very few. But the few who have so believed are interesting out of all proportion to their numbers. Some have become revolutionaries. Others have eschewed practical measures and found their outlet in the writing of utopian novels. Still others have sought to reconcile vision with action, and have undertaken by peaceable means to build on this new continent a perfect society on a small scale in a cooperative or communistic colony.

Over the past three hundred years a succession of such experimental communities have arisen on American soil, established by foreign sects, by American saints, by anti-religious reformers, by charlatans, by intellectuals, by peasants. The story of these ventures is told with sympathy and verve in this British book, which bears the delightfully ambiguous title "Heavens on Earth," a phrase that may be taken either as explanatory or as exclamatory.

As a work of popularization, this shows excellent craftsmanship. Mr. Holloway deals amusingly with commutarian foibles without misrepresenting the basic seriousness of the movement. By deft selection he encompasses the entire period, bringing together the accepted historical information found in the standard works in the field. To produce a readable synthesis has not been an easy task, for many of the older works are diffuse, vague, incomplete, and out of balance. Mr. Holloway uses them with discrimination, and composes their chaotic information into a smooth and well-proportioned narrative.

Unfortunately disordered exposition is not the only fault of the older works. Many of them are based on quite inadequate research, and present conclusions that are far from trustworthy. Mr. Holloway can offer no corrective to this, for he has made almost no use of manuscripts, contemporary periodicals, or newspapers, and he has even missed a number of the more recent scholarly publications. His book is thus a summary of what has commonly been thought about communitarian Socialism, rather than a fresh and reliable interpretation of the movement, no longer vigorous in America.

—ARTHUR E. BESTOR, JR.

THE USSR & THE WORLD

(Continued from page 17)

fratricidal factional hatred, and calculating cynicism.

Orwell's book, written at the time, helps to force this conclusion, though he does not state it—evidently did not then feel it. It limits itself to a statement-at-a-point-in-time. I wonder if the author of "Animal Farm" and "Nineteen Eighty-Four" might someday have written more about Spain, or revised and enlarged this interesting book, had he lived?

Watchful Waters

REPORT FROM FORMOSA. By H. Maclear Bate. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. 290 pp. \$3.50.

By HALLETT ABEND

A CAREFUL perusal of Mr. Bate's book on Formosa leaves the reader feverishly speculating what the future of that unhappy island can possibly be, and what fate awaits Chiang Kai-shek and his more than half million military and civilian followers. Which is just what Mr. Bate intended when he wrote his book.

It is not any lack of clarity in the author's writing or presentation of his subject which leads to this reader bewilderment. It is merely the result of the unparalleled developments which have brought an ousted political and military leader to exile on a small and not altogether hospitable island, where they exist in a dangerous and probably temporary condition of security because their outside protecting power fears that any decisive move to change conditions might be the signal for the start of a third world war.

It is likely that no American author could have written as calm and balanced a book about Formosa as this volume by a noted British journalist and foreign correspondent. An American would almost certainly be biased for or against our whole Far East policy, whereas Mr. Bate's only discernible prejudice is against the now admitted folly of London ever having accorded formal diplomatic recognition to the Red regime in Peking.

Formosa has been a luckless island. For centuries history has recorded invasions, uprisings, and rebellions, but only short and temporary periods of peace and prosperity. Rarely have the Formosans felt any real at-

tachment to China as their homeland.

The author has wisely devoted considerable space to the turbulent history of the island itself, and has included chapters on Hongkong, Macao, and Manila. Without these sidelights on nearby seaports, and an explanation of the relationship of Formosa and Japan, the picture of the present crisis would be incomplete and difficult for the average reader to understand.

Today Chiang Kai-shek's problem is almost identical with the basic problem which worries both the White House and the Pentagon. Stated in its simplest terms this problem is how long can we wait to have Chiang Kai-shek attempt a return to the mainland of China. His army, navy, and air force, numbering collectively more than 500,000 men, can of course be re-equipped with artillery, transport, planes, and ships from the United States, but Chiang's men are getting no younger, and he has no reservoir of civilian manpower from which to draw recruits or conscripts. The 7,000,000 Formosans will not go into his armed forces, and his Chinese army is already three years older than when he fled from the mainland.

Mao Tse-tung and his Chinese Communists cannot forever endure the existence of an alienated Formosa garrisoned by hostile troops only 100 miles offshore. The United States has made it clear that the island must never pass under Red control, but neither Chiang nor Washington can keep the Nationalist army forever young enough to be an effective fighting force.

The much talked of "general settlement" in the Far East, including Washington's recognition of Peking, seems more remote than ever now that Great Britain has openly acknowledged the failure of its own recognition policy by withdrawing all representatives of British business from Red China, and abandoning properties and assets worth nearly a billion dollars.

Even if such an unlikely "general settlement" could be brought about the mere existence of Chiang Kai-shek's army and host of followers on Formosa would present an almost insoluble problem. It would be even more difficult than the problem of our prisoners of war in Korea.

We could not surrender this great host of human beings to the untender mercy of the Chinese Reds, nor could we haul them away in ships to some location of safety. What coun-

Hallett Abend has written "Chaos in Asia," "Japan Unmasked," and other books on the Far East.



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