

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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try or region would accept them? Not Japan. Not the Philippines. Every country in East Asia is already overpopulated, and there exist no uninhabited islands which could be purchased and offered to them as a safe haven.

Another almost insoluble problem is what to do about the native islanders, the real Formosans. They do not want Chiang Kai-shek or the Nationalists to stay on. They do not want to be ruled by the Chinese Communists. They talk dreamily of independence or of becoming the wards of the United Nations. But they have no idea who would then protect them from aggression from the mainland.

Reading "Report From Formosa" will help no one to come up with a solution of any of these puzzles. But the book itself is a vast help to an understanding of the great issues at stake—issues which had best be thoroughly understood by the American public before our government finally takes up the task of trying to evolve some safe and equitable solution.

USSR & World Notes

STRANGE LAND BEHIND ME. By Stephen W. Pollak. *British Book Centre*. \$3.25. The "God that failed" so many others, has also failed Stephen Pollak, a young Czech journalist and disillusioned ex-Communist. His father, a well-to-do art dealer and connoisseur of philosophy and literature, was a genuine liberal who said that the few eternal ideas worth fighting for cannot be realized or destroyed by shooting off guns. The son thought he knew better and went his own way.

The "strange land" which he now leaves behind, is the community of his former comrades in the revolutionary service of the Soviet Union. His was an adventurous life. He fought in Spain, was crippled, escaped to France and was, on instruction from Moscow, sent to Yugoslavia and other Balkan countries. Traveling with a false Canadian passport, he maintained contact with underground Communists but was arrested in India and interned. After the war he re-

turned to East-Germany and later to Prague. Only here, when his superiors interfered with his work on a Communist newspaper, did he become convinced that Moscow was not really interested in the national interests of the Czechoslovakian people. The Kremlin, he noticed, was only working for Russia.

Looking over his eleven years in the service of the Party, the author confesses with bitterness in his heart: "My deep faith in the Socialist Fatherland had survived the shock of the Soviet-German pact, of the Soviet attack on Finland, of the knowledge that Russia had betrayed the anti-Fascist cause in Spain for her own ends, and of Yugoslavia being left to her fate by a Socialist Russia . . . Now, allegiance to a Party which had forsaken the ideals of the Revolution by becoming the tool of the foreign policy of a new ruling caste seemed the real betrayal of everything I had cherished."

Writing about his meetings with Moscow agents, Soviet embassy officials, and faithful Communists in many parts of the world with candor and honesty, Mr. Pollak cannot be called simply another disillusioned revolutionary. He remained a faithful, although not fully convinced, Moscow-follower until his own country, Czechoslovakia, was subjugated by Soviet Russia. While still a firm believer in Communist ideas, he thinks that the Socialist crusade has been transformed into a struggle not between oppressor and oppressed but for power to mold the destinies of the common man. He maintains that the salvation of society cannot be achieved by an "American way of life." He emerges, in fact, as a nationalist Czech—as against the Soviet imperialism preached by Moscow—and a believer in totalitarian ideas—as long as they are for the good of the masses and not of the few in the Kremlin. Strangely enough, he does not even mention Titoism.

Living now in England, enjoying freedom of thought and conscience, he asserts blandly that these are luxuries in any society which has not first fed and clothed and sheltered its members. The battlecry of "Freedom versus slavery" sounds hollow to him while he proclaims at the same time his right to speak and write as he likes.

It is this confusion in his mind which makes his story oddly fascinating reading. And his experience in journalism, his brilliant observations, his illuminating disclosures of Soviet methods in foreign countries and a penetrating chapter on the Communist subjugation of Czechoslovakia in

Your Literary I.Q.

By Howard Collins

"WHAT'S MY LINE?"

(Thank you, TV)

Each of the ten literary characters mentioned below worked in one of the four fields accompanying his or her name. Fannie Gross, of Asheville North Carolina, asks you to see how many you can remember. Allowing ten points for each correct answer, a score of fifty is par, sixty is very good, and seventy or better is excellent. Answers on page 38.

1. The villainous Midge Kelly, in "Champion," by Ring Lardner, earned his living as an expert
wrestler boxer pool player craps shooter
2. After Sherlock Holmes left London to retire in Sussex he became an ardent
stamp collector artist schoolteacher beekeeper
3. Liza, the bewildered heroine of "Lady in the Dark," by Moss Hart, was employed as a
magazine editor pianist housewife telephone operator
4. Silas Lapham, "The Rise of Silas Lapham," by William Dean Howells, got rich on
soap paint biscuits peanuts
5. In Evelyn Waugh's "The Loved One" Aimée Thanatogenos was a lovelorn
dancer secretary mortuary beautician cook
6. Quasimodo, in the "Hunchback of Notre Dame," by Victor Hugo, was a deformed
tightrope walker safe cracker bellringer steeplejack
7. Before she was reconditioned, Eliza Doolittle, in Shaw's "Pygmalion," eked out an existence by selling
popcorn flowers patent medicine shoestrings
8. The unfortunate Moxon, in Ambrose Bierce's "Moxon's Master," was a
prison warden bank president inventor prospector
9. Dinah Morris, in "Adam Bede," by George Eliot, had the unusual job of
mica splitter coffee grinder lady-preacher doll dresser
10. In "August Heat," by W. F. Harvey, Charles Atkinson made his living as a
bricklayer tombstone carver antique dealer farmer