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# SLAVIC REVIEW

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istic as (in the best sense) fraternizing. The final value of the work is simply expressed by the author in the conclusion: "I liked to learn about different ways and customs; and I gradually collected quite a store of information." The book represents a new kind of geographic popular literature which has already enjoyed wide acceptance among British readers, and which Americans ought to know. In his writing, Obruchev, an academician of the old school, follows the principle of *utile dulci*.

Nine good maps of the countries of Russian Central Asia and Chinese Turkestan with which the book is concerned add to its interest. They are better graphically executed than the original maps of the book published in 1956 by the State Geographical Society in Moscow, although the lack of meridians and parallels makes the maps less scientifically useful. The book is well translated by Vera Bowen, who has a thorough knowledge of the Russian language. However, the foreword by Peter Fleming is poor and unnecessary.

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BOLESŁAW SZCZESNIAK

G. PLEKHANOV, *Selected Philosophical Works* (in five volumes). Volume I. Moscow: Foreign Languages Publishing House. London: Lawrence and Wishart, 1961. 898 pp. 21s.

Two decades after Plekhanov paid philosophy the tribute of being "the science of the sciences," Lenin described Plekhanov's own philosophical works as "obligatory textbooks of communism"—an endorsement that led to their translation into English and other foreign languages. By contrast, his socio-political writings have gone untranslated until the appearance of the thick volume under review—the first of a series of five projected by the Institute of Philosophy of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR—which employs the term "philosophical" so loosely as to include every type of work Plekhanov wrote. Owing to this generous interpretation, the person who does not read Russian now for the first time can acquaint himself with Plekhanov's *Socialism and Political Struggle* and *Our Differences*, the works that laid the foundations of Russian Marxism. The volume includes as well the first English translation of *On the Sixtieth Anniversary of Hegel's Death*, the stimulating precursor of all Plekhanov's later philosophical works; the celebrated *Development of the Monistic View of History*; and a number of other pieces.

In a lengthy introduction, V. Fomina rehearses the well-worn Soviet estimate of Plekhanov: he merits undying glory for having developed Russian Marxism, but, regrettably, he later went astray, parting company with Lenin, who unwaveringly charted the proper course for the movement. Ironically, though the selections in this volume all were written in the "good" phase of Plekhanov's career, the reader frequently cannot refrain from observing how they stand as a reproach to certain of Lenin's characteristic views and tactics.

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