white drawings; there are also a few distribution maps. It is a pity that, following usual Soviet publishing practice, there is no list of illustrations and no index. Always an irritation, in a wide-ranging book of this nature the lack is particularly keenly

felt. Nevertheless, this is a work which will give anyone interested in Byelorussia and the Byelorussians much useful information and, indeed, pleasure.

R. A. French

Kozlovskij, P. G. *Krest'jane Belorussii vo vtoroj polovine XVII-XVIII v. (po materialam magnatskich votchin)*. 'Navuka i tehnika', Minsk, 1969. 204 pages.

In the final paragraph of his conclusion, the author states quite clearly that the purpose of this book is to refute the reactionary concepts of contemporary bourgeois historiography; the actual facts of Byelorussian rural history demonstrate the progressive development of the economy, despite all difficulties and hindrances, they show the inevitability of the replacement of one social structure by another. It is hard to understand what precisely Kozlovskij means by 'contemporary', since most of the authors with whom he disagrees were in fact writing in the 20's and 30's, and some considerably earlier; they certainly did not have access to the vast amount of material which he has used. As he himself points out, the material on which the final conclusions of this book are based, is three times greater than that used by Doŭnar-Zapolski in his *Socyjalna-ekonomičnaja struktura Litoŭska-Belaruskaje dżiaržavy u XVI-XVIII stalećciach* (Minsk, 1927). It is particularly with Doŭnar-Zapolski that Kozlovskij disagrees on the extent of the decline of the rural economy in Byelorussia in the 18th century. He contends that the decline caused by the wars of 1648-1667 and the Great Northern War was checked and indeed reversed. Kozlovskij bases this on the figures contained in the tables — figures gleaned from the records of a large number of grand ducal domains in the western, central and eastern parts of Byelorussia. The figures are used to show the improved state of the rural economy as a whole in the eighteenth century, despite the increased number of (relatively) poorer peasants and the resultant concentration of wealth (expressed in terms of land and working cattle) in fewer hands. There were two factors influencing the growth or decline in property distinctions among peasants: the economic development of a village

would bring about an increase in the number of impoverished peasants there, but on the other hand the landowners themselves would be interested in maintaining a fairly level standard of wealth in order to maintain the *corvée* system. Kozlovskij does in fact cite evidence which shows that on several estates the magnates instructed their stewards to ensure that the wealthier peasants worked more days of *corvée* than the poorer ones. Yet elsewhere in the book he quotes many examples of landowners paying, either in cash (*soljarij*) or in kind (*ordinarij*), for work which would formerly have been considered *corvée*. There was thus no general trend towards replacement of *corvée* with quitrent or hired labour throughout Byelorussia, unless the apparently conflicting examples quoted above were taken from documents of different periods, and this is not made clear. Counts of hired labour and *otčodničestvo* were taken from the inventories of 5 estates, significantly less than the counts of other factors. The reason for this is the paucity of the material and the incomplete nature of the inventories. Yet it is on this material that Kozlovskij develops his theory of the emergence in what other historians have considered backward rural Byelorussia of a wealthy, 'exploiting' class of peasants.

In spite of this apparent attempt to fit data into the straitjacket of preconceived theories of social development, this book remains a valuable and interesting addition to our knowledge of the agrarian history of eastern Europe. It is of special importance for the amount of archive research it contains, and for the fact that it appears to be the first exclusive treatment of the subject of peasants on estates of the greater nobility.

James Dingley