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Henry M. Pachter: Modern Germany: A Social, Cultural and Political History

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und Gretl" the children suffer in a boarding school, while the mother studies for her exams.

However, living alone is also no answer for women. The actress in "Spielen" lives her life, totally ego-centered, through acting out the lives of others. Worgitsky feels it is better to have a companion, so that one can see the world, not from a single perspective, which is seeing "blind," but through four eyes, "vieräugig," through your own eyes and the eyes of a partner. This is the message which she, none too subtly, conveys in the final story, "Verdorbene Jugend." Barbara's parents are against her love for Ulrich and force her to have an abortion, so she can continue her studies. Barbara has realized, maturely, that love is also necessary. She tells Ulrich: "Ich fühle mich überhaupt nicht blind. Im Gegenteil: Seit ich Dich kenne, sehe ich viel mehr und viel besser als vorher, weil ich alles nicht nur mit meinen Augen aufnehme, sondern gewissermaßen auch durch Dingen---vieräugig also, nicht blind." This collection of stories will be of interest to anyone concerned with present day life in the GDR or in women's literature in general. The stories themselves are unequal in quality. Essentially, it must be classified as "Trivilliteratur," but as is often the case with this type of fiction, the work is valuable to those wishing to gain insight into the society and times of the author. Hopefully, some of the weaknesses are only signs of immaturity. Worgitsky does display considerable finesse in approach, and the stories are often entertaining. This gives the reader hope that she will overcome the tendency to "soap box" her themes and emerge a writer of stature.

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Modern Germany: A Social, Cultural and Political History. By Henry M. Pachter. Boulder, Col.: Westview Press. 1978. 415 pages.

Only "Divided Germany," the fourth and concluding section of Henry Pachter's Modern Germany, is of immediate interest to readers of the GDR Bulletin but even this section, which consists of 11 brief chapters totalling 111 pages, is of little value to the serious

and unbiased student of the GDR. The brevity of each of the chapters indicates one of the significant flaws in the book: Pachter has attempted to consider too many topics in too little space. One cannot treat the Geist of postwar Germany, for example, in 15 pages; and more specifically, one cannot consider the philosophy, religion and science of this period in 3 pages, as Pachter has sought to do. One must question the merit of still another outline of history. At this stage of GDR history and scholarship, we are more in need of in-depth studies of limited and well-defined historical, cultural and social topics. In addition to this serious flaw, the book suffers also from a decided superficiality, by awkward transitions and by a distinct lack of organization.

Although it is possible to excuse some of the problems presented by the book, it is difficult to overlook Pachter's obvious stance as a cold warrior. He speaks naively of "American idealism, which condemned power politics" in the postwar period and of the "unspeakable Ulbricht." He is content with superficial explanations, such as the one he offers to support the West's rejections of the general peace proposals of the early fifties: "In one way or another Stalin's proposals always amounted to something the Western powers could not accept." The reader deserves to know in what way or another. Pachter's book suffers also from errors, both of fact and of omission. The former is exemplified by his claim that the widening gulf between the Two Germanies has led to two languages, an interpretation rejected by most experienced linguists. As an example of an error of omission one could offer Pachter's brief considerations of the Central Control Commission. In this regard, he notes only that "Marschal Sokolovsky walked out of the Control Council. The pretense that Germany was one country under tripartite occupation was dead." Such a portrayal, at best, confusing and, at worst, misleading.

Unfortunately, this is the kind of book that perpetrates the worst cliches of the cold war and postwar history and impedes efforts to establish an unbiased view of the GDR and relations between the two Germanies.

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