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Ernest D. Plock: The Basic Treaty and the Evolution of East-West German Relations

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communist, the career-oriented Kruschkatz, appears in a very positive light. Kruschkatz is a figure of GDR reality, a figure, in this case, whose private life becomes a shambles while his efforts in the public sphere fall short of bringing him adequate personal satisfaction.

The other element consists of the fact that Horn's death is placed in the historically sensitive year of 1957, when events in socialist countries following Khrushchev's anti-Stalin speech of 1956 led to a great deal of insecurity among the intellectuals and to such events as the early emeritus status of Ernst Bloch. Although the central impact of the novel has little to do with the historical Johannes Heinz Horn, about whom not a great deal is known, it was Bloch who gave Horn a position at the Karl-Marx-Universität Leipzig in the early 1950s, in part as a result of his 1933 dissertation on "Lenin als Philosoph." Now that Bloch's Leipzig lectures are scheduled to appear in the GDR, it may become possible to look at the 50s with the same sort of unequivocal objectivity as does Gertrude Fischlinger in the novel, the only true member of the working class portrayed, and one of the few persons for whom the reader's sympathy is not altered by conflicting and subjective descriptions of her by the other characters. This may depend upon which attitudes towards history are developing in the late 1980s, some thirty years afterwards.

Horns Ende addresses not only the past but the present as well. The novel makes you wonder a little about a new, youthful generation raised in socialism, but with no direct experience or memory relating to the past, or to the creation and establishing of socialism, as Kruschkatz himself discovers in his last official speech before the townspeople of Guldenberg. It also makes you wonder a bit about how a generation raised on socialism might compare to a generation such as ours, raised on TV.

Christoph Hein is one of a handful of GDR writers whose works extend beyond borders.

Horns Ende, like Der fremde Freund or Die wahre Geschichte des AhQ, is part of world literature. Any writer uses his own environment as the structural background for artistic expression and Hein is no exception. But it would be a mistake to see Guldenberg exclusively as the GDR. In many respects, it could be a town anywhere, in either Germany, or in Europe. It could be a small town in most countries. For Horns Ende Hein has used his talent with language in a much different manner than he did in his earlier prose. Once again, he has created a small masterpiece. But it takes a second reading to realize this, to see how all the intricate pieces of this mosaic interlock. A little patience, a little pondering.

Phil McKnight
University of Kentucky.

The Basic Treaty and the Evolution of East-West German Relations. By Ernest D. Plock. Westview Special Studies in International Relations. Boulder: Westview Press, 1986. xiii + 272 pp.

In this volume we now have a meticulous, detailed account of relations between the two German states. The chronicle covers the period leading up to the Basic Treaty of 1972 in broad outline and then, in much greater detail, the evolution of the relationship under the terms of that treaty. Plock's treatment stresses the clash of juridical conceptions animating the two states respectively; and his analysis is at its best when he examines the legal implications of these divergent conceptions, both in the process of accomplishing the treaty and in moving beyond its literal provisions as the two states recognized a growing congruence of interest in the years that followed.

By focusing somewhat narrowly on relations between East and West Germany, the author tends

the inhibiting framework of the counterposed alliance systems to which the GDR and FRG belong. There is no lack of attention to Soviet domination of the GDR, but one misses the sense in which the relationship works itself out within an international system dominated by two superpowers. One of the chief virtues of this study is its breadth in dealing with all aspects of the relationship -- down to the most mundane aspects of postal and telephonic communication (though I was disappointed at the modest coverage of cultural interplay). But its origins as a dissertation are revealed in a seeming disinclination to address the larger political implications of the German "leak" in the opposing alliance systems.

Unfortunately one has also to remark upon the dreadfully turgid prose in evidence here. That may also (though it should not) smack of a dissertation; but if it does, then it is fair to expect a published book to rise above the impenetrable English that appears to satisfy -- or even may be required by -- political science departments. If there is no discernable difference between dissertation and published book, then it is also fair to wonder why we should not simply settle for the former, available in microfilm and useful as careful research, and credit the author accordingly.

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Encounters in Democracy. A U.S. Journalist's View of the GDR. By Margrit Pittman. New York: International Publishers, 1981. 229 pp. \$1.95.

This book was written shortly after the 10th Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of the GDR in the spring of 1981. It is an admiring account of the achievements of the GDR

and an interesting background study for the 11th Congress. International Publishers printed this work in the GDR and it must be considered an authorized account. Margrit Pittman was born in Germany and fled the racial persecutions of the Third Reich in 1938. From the United States she returned as a correspondent for the Daily World in the period 1974 - 1979 and her observations and interviews from this time are the foundations for her study.

The decade of the 1970s saw many Western attacks upon Eastern Europe for the lack of human rights. Margrit Pittman is writing in part to show that progress occurred in many areas of life and that the West's concern for "malcontents" is overdrawn: "Essentially this book will deal with the question of human rights under Socialism for the population as a whole -- or, more precisely, the nature of socialist democracy." Her study highlights the remarkable growth of the GDR from the rubble of WWII to its status as the 10th greatest industrial power today.

History is a serious enterprise in the GDR and this book is similar to other recent accounts such as Heinz Heitzer's GDR. An Historical Outline (1981) in interpreting the world in which East Germans live. This report is highly sensitive to Western attitudes toward the GDR and the attractions of the Federal Republic of Germany. There are constant uses of comparisons and contrasts between East and West German conditions and practically all results are favorable to the GDR. Often, there is reason for celebrating the achievements in the GDR; for example, the greater concern for equal pay for women, the greater availability of nursery and day-care opportunities for working parents' children, or the support of family life that extended paid maternity leaves provide. At other times the author stretches things a bit and becomes repetitious -- for example, in quoting a West Berlin sociologist's disappointment that resistance figures and victims of the