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 Khruschev'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.
to slight — though he certainly acknowledges —
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 cov­
erage of cultural interplay). But its origins as
a dissertation are revealed in a seeming disin­
cination to address the larger political impli­
cations 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 diffe­
cence 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:

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 ad­
miring 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 founda­
tions 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 "mal­
contents" 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 ruble 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 ac­
counts such as Heinz Heitzer's GDR. An Histori­
cal 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 disappoint­
ment that resistance figures and victims of the