

collaborations. The index is spotty, omitting, for example, references to Stengers and Deleuze in the above-mentioned connection.

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Eduard I. Kolchinskii. *Так вспоминается . . . [So I Remember . . .].* 572 pp., figs., bibl., index. St. Petersburg: Nestor-History, 2014. P1,380.

Eduard Kolchinskii, the renowned historian of Russian biology, author of thirteen monographs about evolutionary theory in Russia, and director of the Vavilov Institute of History of Science and Technology in St. Petersburg, has offered scholars of Soviet history a gift with this memoir. The current emphasis on archival materials can sometimes push authors to discover insights in documents whose authors have intentionally tried to mislead. Memoirs, as Kolchinskii notes in his introduction, have their own troubled relationship with the past, but the reader can nevertheless be reasonably sure that memoirists have written what they want, that they have filled in gaps with specifics and explanations, and that they try to guide their readers through a narrative. The result can be astonishing and incredibly enlightening, as is the case for this volume, which takes readers down into the trenches of the Soviet science wars. These memoirs should be required reading for any student of Soviet science, but they would benefit anyone interested in the social history of the Soviet Union.

Kolchinskii opens the volume by convincing himself that a memoir is a valid intellectual enterprise, given the tendency of the genre to distort history and serve a tendentious and usually unstated agenda. Kolchinskii explains that he overcame this reservation by noting that the best memoirs he has read openly acknowledge their limitations, abandon the pretense of objectivity, and simply try to describe events as they seem to the author in retrospect.

The early chapters of the book are dedicated to Kolchinskii's childhood and educational experiences and would be of interest for anyone who would like more texture in their understanding of everyday life in the Soviet Union in the 1950s. During this part of the book, set in the Urals city of Cheliabinsk, signs of Kolchinskii's future as an eminent historian of science were relatively few. Daily life in Cheliabinsk was a struggle, as Kolchinskii describes it, with children using human bones as toys and all household products save for bread, salt, sugar, and shoes made at home. Kolchinskii appears to remember even the finest details, such as the prices for staples and the methods for preparing foodstuffs. Where else to read about prevailing Soviet attitudes toward drunk driving, the typical living arrangements for middle-class families in the provinces, or the disciplinary response to political unorthodoxy among schoolchildren?

The real focus of the book, however, is not on Soviet everyday life but on the extended and messy struggle between Lysenko and his followers, on the one hand, and, on the other, those who found ideological control distasteful. Kolchinskii wants to underscore that Marxism and dialectical materialism (as espoused by the Soviet authorities) were not as all-embracing as some other memoirists have suggested and that a significant portion sought to escape intellectual conformity, with some measure of success. Kolchinskii thus describes the relationships between such Soviet scholarly luminaries as Iurii Polianski, Daniil Lebedev, Ivan Kanaev, and Anatolii Kol'tsov and shows how the correct attitude toward ideological rigidity was not as important as is sometimes suggested. Independent-mindedness among scholars persisted, in part because, according to Kolchinskii, the most dedicated Party organizers were not Communist zealots but instead usually "decent and accomplished people" who valued scholarly work over ideological conformity. Half-hearted enforcement of Party dictates, which Kolchinskii noticed even when he was still a child, logically followed. This is not to say that ideological pressure played no role in Soviet science; es-

pecially in the period from 1930 to 1960, Kolchinskii shows, scientists could and did suffer for their beliefs. But Kolchinskii also demonstrates, through his own example, that in the late Soviet period even someone with an acerbic tongue and an independent mind could secure a spot on a university faculty and explore ideas that the Communist Party did not endorse.

Despite the serious subject matter, Kolchinskii supplies his narrative with a light, self-deprecating touch. He calls himself lazy and undisciplined and even calls into question the usefulness of his life's work: "having defended a philosophical doctoral dissertation and having worked almost twenty years in specialized circles, I cannot exactly say what philosophy is and why it is needed" (p. 63). But as Kolchinskii would certainly agree, the process whereby historical truth was evaluated and generated in the Soviet Union can tell us a great deal about how the country operated, and the professional philosopher's insight into this process provided in this book is invaluable.

Stephen Brain

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Peter Piot. *AIDS between Science and Politics*. Translated by **Laurence Garey**. ix + 198 pp., figs., index. New York: Columbia University Press, 2015. \$29.95 (cloth).

AIDS and the global response to it have fundamentally reshaped the world and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. In its three decades, AIDS has affected at least seventy million people and taken over thirty million lives (p. 2). No one is better positioned to reflect on the transformations AIDS has instigated than the founding executive director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), Peter Piot. Told from the perspective of an activist-scientist who was at the forefront of establishing an international multilateral response to HIV/AIDS, this book traces the history of the global HIV/AIDS pandemic and analyzes the relationship between scientific research, political struggles, and the advancement of public health policy. Piot suggests that we pay heed to the ways in which science, economics, and politics are interwoven in order to understand the structural determinants that have caused the pandemic and forged synergistic prevention and treatment strategies to stem its progression. Piot illustrates the important role that political leaders, social movement activists, and lay experts have played in addressing the illness worldwide.

It is quite a task to write a history of the emergence and response to HIV/AIDS around the world and to do so in an accessible fashion. Yet this is precisely what *AIDS between Science and Politics* accomplishes, appealing equally to AIDS experts and novices.

Chapter 1 begins with an overview of the global spread of HIV and then offers current epidemiological statistics. Owing to the widespread availability of antiretroviral therapy, infected people are living longer, so prevalence rates remain high despite decreases in incidence (though new infections remain high in some locations). Chapter 2 explains how South Africa came to have the highest disease burden of HIV/AIDS in the world. Although the virus took ten years to spread globally, an effective global response took twenty years to mount (p. 51), and Chapter 3 traces this process. "AIDS engendered a new type of global social movement that questioned traditional principles of global health, doctor-patient relationships, the role of the state and international institutions, as well as theories about behavior change" (p. 73). In Chapter 4 Piot provides information about important social movement actors around the world who changed the scope of the epidemic by fighting for HIV-infected peoples' right to treatment despite reluctant governments, greedy pharmaceutical corporations, and high levels of stigmatization. Chapter 5 provides a history of the battle for treatment, and Chapter 6 focuses on the need to combine behavioral, biological,