

a line is not meant to be rigid and is useful only with a majority of works.)

Though Blume's study of style and influence comes second in the volume, the reader who decides to study every page should leave it to the end. After the arduous reading of some of the specialist essays, this chapter crowns rewardingly the whole. It generalizes, but gives chapter and verse for its judgments, and hovers engagingly between panoramic vision and detailed reference. Perhaps the best formula which can be devised to express Mozart's genius in terms of literature is one of Goethe's, intended in quite a different sense from that in which Blume quotes it: 'Moulded form, unfolding itself as it lives'.

REVIEWS

CHINA UNDER COMMUNISM. By Richard L. Walker. (Allen & Unwin; 30s.)

For the first time for centuries the whole of China is ruled by a Government whose authority extends to every corner of the land. Modelling itself very largely, though not exclusively, upon the U.S.S.R. and adhering closely to the principles of Lenin, it is transforming the life of 600,000,000 people. Under the direction of the Communist Government an industrial revolution is now beginning which may have profound consequences upon the world as a whole. Chinese factories, manned by ingenious, industrious workers will soon start pouring enormous quantities of goods on to the world's markets. Its army, already the second largest in the world, will sooner or later be fully mechanized and brought right up to date.

All Asia is watching what is happening there. People in the under-developed areas all over the world will, unless they see something better in the Free World, increasingly tend to draw their political inspiration from its successes.

All this should make us realize that it is necessary to know as much as possible about what is happening inside Communist China. To date, since Mao Tse-tung took over, there has been a lot of printed and other propaganda done for and against the régime but very little serious research.

Here, in *China under Communism*, however, we have the result of a great deal of painstaking work which runs to some 400 pages, close-packed with facts.

The author has gone to Chinese Communist sources for his material. Fortunately there is no difficulty in obtaining it. One can sit in Hong Kong and get almost as much as one wants. Mr Walker was able to get most of his in the United States. He has brought together sufficient facts and figures to make this the most complete picture yet of the political and economic life of China under Communism and of the way in which the régime works. He takes due account of the Communists' successes—which it is foolish to ignore—and considers that it is 'altogether probable that the Mao régime will accomplish further impressive feats'.

To those who have studied both the Russian and Chinese Communist régimes, it is clear that the most important difference between them for the future is that the Chinese are so much more thorough-going and audacious in the way in which they practise their Communism.

Mr Walker describes the pattern of political control in Communist China today as a 'combination of persuasion and coercion organized, supervised, checked, enforced and reinforced. The scientific gadgets of the age of Orwell's Big Brother are missing, but most of the other ingredients are there.'

The picture he builds up from his carefully accumulated facts justifies that somewhat nightmarish description.

Here and there the author's lack of first-hand knowledge of Communism in the West and, one suspects, of Communists generally, leads him into odd conclusions. He observes, for example, that the term 'cadre' is applied by the Chinese Communists to individuals as well as groups. In a footnote he goes on to suggest that this 'probably stems from the fact that the Chinese make no distinction between singular and plural'. It does nothing of the sort. This application of the term is common to Communist parties everywhere, in both East and West.

I note this point, not in any spirit of carping criticism, but because it reflects the fact that Mr Walker's approach to his subject is a somewhat narrow, specialized and 'bookish' one and for this reason *China under Communism* lacks that extra something which would bring it to life, and it is less readable as a consequence. One feels this, too, in his treatment of the subject of religious persecution. A few hours spent away from his documents in Yale University library interviewing expelled missionaries would have been well used.

But this does not alter the fact that this is the best and most comprehensive study of Red China to date and as such should be read by all those who want to be well informed on world affairs, for China, as Mr Walker says, will be 'a continuing challenge to the outside world'.

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