

## Book Reviews

views are ably interwoven by Dr. Moore as he describes the work and life of a Third World diplomat.

Dr. Moore has wise words to offer all diplomats on how to do their jobs effectively and efficiently. He is an able communicator and not surprisingly lays considerable emphasis on the need for all diplomats, particularly Third World diplomats, to pursue and persuade imaginatively all segments of society in their country of posting. He writes knowingly of the importance and role of the universities, church groups and voluntary agencies in developing sympathetic and understanding attitudes to the needs of the Third World.

With respect to the training of young diplomats from the Third World, Dr. Moore offers many perceptive and shrewd proposals on how to achieve the development of a rounded and mature foreign service officer. His many useful recommendations could be accepted by many countries including those of the developed world.

In sum Dr. Moore's study could well serve as a standard text for many foreign services because it contains so very many sound and profound observations.

---

*Bruce M. Williams is a retired Canadian diplomat living in Ottawa.*

---

## Good-looking Germany

by Hans Sinn

*Questions on German History: ideas, forces, decisions from 1800 to the present. Bonn: German Bundestag, 1984, 468 pages, free.*

To review a government publication is hazardous at best. To review a government publication which touches upon the disputed origins of its own State is bound to be contentious. Nevertheless, the Bundestag (Parliament) of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) must have felt sure of its footing when it opened in 1971 a continuous exhibition on German history, and recently translated the catalogue into English. The resultant catalogue of 468 pages, almost equally divided between text and illustrations, is attractive, well organized and easy to read. Unfortunately it is poorly bound and its pages tend to dislodge upon first reading.

The stated purpose of the exhibition is to trace Germany's "movement towards a liberal parliamentary democracy" from 1800 to the present. It is the evident wish of the organizers to assure their audience that democracy, after some serious setbacks, has finally arrived in Germany and is here to stay. The Bundestag in its eagerness to make its

point virtually ignores the eighteen million Germans now living in the German Democratic Republic (GDR). It also asks its audience to concentrate on the *process* by which decisions have been made since 1945 in West Germany, not their *content*. Thus, provided the viewer accepts Dr. Gall's advice and does not look too closely at German history, especially as it pertains to the origins of GDR and FRG, he or she will be left with the comforting impression of having been presented with a well-rounded historical review. The catalogue is filled with enough facts and figures to befog more recent German history.

The exhibit and catalogue make a conscious appeal to western political bias. Unfortunately it is a bias we can ill afford. Today's Germans are tied so closely to the military and socio-economic systems of East and West that mistaken assumptions about the origin and purpose of the two German states could prove costly. This is not to suggest that Canada's new allies are not as democratic as the exhibition and its catalogue portray it to be. Instead I am suggesting that ancient dreams and ambitions die hard, and will, when frustrated, assume new forms of expression. We have therefore a legitimate interest to look behind the exterior which the German Bundestag is presenting to the world.

As a start we may wish to consider some of the many facts not mentioned in the catalogue: A.J. and R.I. Merritt in their *Public opinion in occupied Germany* noted that "Opinion polls compiled by the American army's Information Control Division in November of 1945 showed that 50 percent of those (Germans) polled believed that 'National Socialism was a good idea badly carried out.' Only 40 percent thought National Socialism a 'bad idea,' and while 20 percent accepted that Germany was responsible for the war, a massive 70 percent rejected any responsibility. To allied surprise, the same pollster discovered that in January of 1948, the percentage had barely changed."

In the summer of 1947 Dr. Konrad Adenauer, first West German Chancellor and acclaimed architect of postwar West German politics, explained his political strategy to August Haussleiter, the then Deputy Chairman of the Christian Socialist Union (CSU): "The war between America and Russia is unavoidable. We have to see to it that we take part on the right side. For the first time in German history we will have the strongest world power as an ally. Though we will have to cede some land to the West, we will get for it large territories in the East."

Today's West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in proclaiming himself "heir to Dr. Adenauer" is obviously proud of a heritage he does not understand. Unfortunately even for the Germans themselves, the Berlin exhibition and its attractive catalogue shed no light on the ever-present darker side of German politics, but tend to hide more than they reveal. For that reason the catalogue can be of no more than superficial interest to the discerning reader.

---

*Hans Sinn operates the Social Defense Project from Perth, Ontario.*

---