

printed form and make them available to a wider public.

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Documenting victory

by David Farr

***Documents on Canadian External Relations, Volume 10, 1944-1945 Part I* edited by John F. Hilliker. Ottawa: Department of External Affairs, 1987 (released 1989), 1700 pages, \$84.75 (\$101.70 outside Canada).**

The ten volumes of *Documents on Canadian External Relations* occupy almost thirty inches of shelf space. In their handsome bindings of red, black and gold they provide an imposing setting for the record of Canada's foreign relations from the founding of the Department of External Affairs in 1909 to the Second World War. Now the line of stout volumes is joined by a new recruit, Volume 10, containing documents relating to the final two years of the war. (Volume 12, covering the events of 1946, has already been published.)

Volume 10 is the first of two books to deal with the critical years 1944-45. It concerns itself with subjects arising directly from the conduct of the war: the formulation of war objectives, the European and Japanese peace settlements, prisoners of war, interned civilians and refugees, relief for liberated and occupied territories. Its companion, which it is hoped will soon be published, will deal with Canada's part in the organization of the United Nations, the specialized international agencies and the plans for the international control of atomic energy.

The series, published by the Department of External Affairs, is thus "official history." Most of the volumes have, however, been edited by academic persons from outside the Department who have testified to the freedom they enjoyed in selecting material. The purpose of the official documentary series was set down in Volume 7 in 1974: "to provide a comprehensive self-contained record of the major foreign policy decisions taken by the gov-

ernment of Canada, and of the reasons for taking them."

How well has this purpose been achieved? Since it is impossible to possess a familiarity with all the records, a reviewer can only test the contents of a particular volume by looking at the treatment of recognized themes. A principal theme for the 1944-45 period was the advancement of the functional principle as a basis for representation on international agencies. The claim that membership in an agency should be determined by a country's contribution to its purposes arose from Canada's disappointing experience in seeking a place on the combined boards earlier in the war. In 1944, as a major supplier of foodstuffs to the recently-created United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) Canada tried again. Eighty-seven documents reveal the success, not gained easily, which came from her efforts.

Another subject of the later war years was, of course, the crisis over conscription in Mackenzie King's cabinet. Its international aspect is detailed here: the Prime Minister asking Winston Churchill in October 1944 how long the war would probably continue and whether Canadian troops would be needed for the final military operations. Churchill was not helpful to Mr. King in his replies.

One item from the documents in Volume 10 will surprise most readers. General Alexander was not Mr. King's first choice for Governor General of Canada in 1945. The preferred choice was G.M. Trevelyan, the eminent English historian. But Trevelyan believed himself to be too old for the appointment and Canada's last British-born Governor General came to be a soldier, not a scholar.

Volume 10 has been capably edited by John F. Hilliker, head of the historical section in the Department. He provides a useful introduction explaining the basis of selection for the 1700 pages of documents to follow. There are two organization charts of the headquarters staff of the Department in 1944 and 1945, as well as a list of persons writing or receiving documents. There is an index but it is much shorter than in earlier volumes and consequently somewhat selective. Fourteen illustrations show many of the leading participants in the events treated. There is a picture of Mackenzie King and Louis St. Laurent, for instance, earnestly broadcasting side by side on V-E Day from San Francisco. Other illustrations show Canadian officers taking part in the surrenders of Germany and Japan.

The first volume in the *Documents* series came out in 1967 to mark centennial year. Over succeeding years the progress of the series has been halting. It is to be hoped that the pace can be quickened. Contemporary international history has a wide popular, as well as a scholarly, appeal. If it is to be written fairly, it needs sources such as Canada's *Documents* series provides. The Department of External Affairs has a responsibility to put its full weight behind the project to try to close the 40-year gap between the document it has published and the present day.

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Perestroika and the republics

by Michael Rymek

***Politics, Society, and Nationality Inside Gorbachev's Russia* edited by Seweryn Bialer. Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1989, 255 pages.**

The discord between the Supreme Soviet and five USSR republics that culminated in the adoption of key concessions in the recently approved constitutional amendments and the territorial dispute between Armenia and Azerbaijan over Nagorny-Karabakh has led to increasingly strained relations between Moscow and the Soviet Union's constituent republics. Although both crises have been diffused momentarily, the multidimensional nationality question constitutes one of the most important obstacles to the success of Mikhail Gorbachev's reform plan.

The nationality question is one of the issues dealt with in this collection of seven essays and policy analyses examining the implications of Gorbachev's proposed reforms and the dynamics of those reforms from within the Soviet political system. Compiled by the New York-based East-West Forum, the book focuses on four central aspects of continuity and change within the Soviet Union: politics, political culture, society, and nationality.

In examining the nationality question, Alexander J. Motyl discusses the political implications involved if *perestroika* were