

budget typeface; but it is very stimulating, if not provocative. It is impossible to read it thoroughly and carefully without feeling a strange mixture of elation and despair, elation in that such obviously sensitive, knowledgeable and intelligent people are spending their time trying to unravel such problems, yet mixed with despair because the problem seems complex beyond comprehension, and its amelioration extremely remote.

The book is not easily accessible inasmuch as a great deal of prior conceptual knowledge is presupposed; you cannot walk in off the street — metaphorically — and expect readily to appreciate or even follow much of what is discussed. But the effort is one that should be made, especially by an increasingly parochial and geographically ignorant North America.

David Bennett is Associate Professor of Geography at Carleton University in Ottawa.

Inside deepest Asia

by Robert E. Bedeski

***Mongolia: Politics, Economics and Society* by Alan J.K. Sanders. Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Rienner (original publisher Frances Pinter, London), 1987, 179 pages.**

This volume is one of a series on "Marxist Regimes" which examines systems from Afghanistan through the PDR of Yemen. The author is a Mongolist and journalist, who has provided a wealth of information and analysis on this second oldest of Marxist regimes — the Mongolian People's Republic (MPR). Aside from its intrinsic interest, the MPR provides a model for what Afghanistan's future may hold if the USSR consolidated its occupation.

By the end of the thirteenth century, the Mongol empire extended from Eastern Europe to Java, but today the Mongols are divided into the MPR, which is practically a Soviet satellite, and the Outer Mongolian Autonomous Region of the the People's Republic of China. Politics in the MPR have followed the lead of Moscow since the 1920s. In the 1930s, the Buddhist church was virtually destroyed, and

today there is only one "working" monastery.

The author considers the costs and benefits of close relations with Moscow. The country has a single-party system which mirrors the USSR, and has had slight knowledge of or contact with the outside world. It has little freedom and there are the constraints of a planned economy. On the other hand, Soviet and Comecon aid has been fairly generous in recent years. It is calculated that USSR provided over 11 percent of Mongolian GNP during the 1976-79 period. Economic development has progressed, and the population is expected to double in twenty-six years. Most importantly, the author thinks that the Soviet presence has protected Mongolia from the Chinese and the Japanese since 1921. He observes, "Mongolia in the form of the MPR has survived as the one self-governing homeland for the Mongols and a source of pride and hope for them."

Geopolitically, Mongolia is "between a hammer and an anvil." The MPR was admitted to the United Nations in 1961, and has been expanding its diplomatic relations slowly. Relations with the USSR remain primary. As former Premier Tsedenbal said to Brezhnev in 1974, Mongolians and Soviets are "one crew in battle, one team in labor."

The book provides an excellent overview of the MPR, and includes a number of useful charts, tables and maps. But it is weak in penetrating official statistics and newspaper accounts. The chapter on the political system, for example, is strong in explaining political structures, but has little to say about politics — the interests, personalities, factions and other dynamics of the system. This may reflect the difficulty of getting information about Mongolia, but it makes the book less useful in penetrating the obscurity of MPR politics.

***Who's Who in the People's Republic of China, Second Edition* by Wolfgang Bartke. New York: K.G. Saur Inc. (original publisher K.G. Saur Verlag, Munich), 1987, 786 pages, US\$175.00.**

The 1987 edition contains 3,700 biographies with over 1,000 photographic

portraits, and represents a major expansion of the 1981 edition, which had 2,026 biographies. Deaths, purges, and resignations left only 917 of those biographies for inclusion in the second edition. Appearing a few months before the 13th Party Congress, this volume will probably need some updating by the end of the year.

Nevertheless, the *Who's Who* will remain an important and valuable reference work for anybody interested in, or dealing with, contemporary China. The biographies are arranged in alphabetical order, with Chinese (*pinyin*) rendering of names. Photographs, where available, and of uneven quality, are included with the entries. Each entry begins with "Posts held," in sequence of Party, Government, National People's Congress, Military, Mass Organizations, Provincial Administration, and Others. Next, the biography may have a paragraph on the person's life up to 1949. This is followed by a chronology of events since October 1949 (the founding of the PRC), and included events up to July 1986.

The compiler tells us that he has culled the names and biographies since 1958, with a personnel file of 60,000 persons and 7,000 organizations. The information is based on sources such as the Chinese daily press as well as Taiwan and Hong Kong archives. The PRC has broken from the past, and personnel data is not treated with secrecy, although it must be laboriously searched in the daily press. Artists, scientists and writers comprise about one-quarter of the biographies in the present edition, in contrast to the small proportion in the earlier edition. This is attributed to the Deng policy of upgrading the status of "cultural workers."

The index section helps to summarize much of the information in the biographies. The "Retrospective Tables" include charts of Politburo Members (1927-1986), members of the Politburo Standing Committees (1956-1986), leading Party Secretaries at the provincial level since 1949, and PRC diplomatic relations and ambassadors (1949-July 1986). Another set of tables lists the Politburo and Secretariat members of the 12th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, the 12th Central Committee membership, including alternate members, and