

Cookies on
CAB Direct

Like most websites we use cookies. This is to ensure that we give you the best possible experience.

Continuing to use www.cabdirect.org means you agree to our use of cookies. If you do not agree, you can learn more about the cookies we use.

[Home](#)[Other CABI sites](#) ▼[About](#)[Help](#)

CAB Direct

Search: [Keyword](#) [Advanced](#) [Browse all content](#) [Thesaurus](#) 

Enter keyword search

Search

Actions

 **Scientist in Russia.**Author(s) : [ASHBY, E.](#)Book : [Scientist in Russia.](#) 1947 pp.252 pp.

Abstract : The author of this vivid account of life-not as the title would suggest-in the Soviet Union begins his story with a quotation from Dostoevsky. The whole book is imbued with an unusual insight into the psychological make-up of the Russian people, with their endless contradictions and inconsistencies, a knowledge which is indispensable for a correct appraisal of the scientific situation. Ashby has had unique opportunities of learning to know the Russian character and he pains to point out the difference between the sincere friendliness towards foreigners shown by the people and the deliberate suspicion of the state and official bodies. It is a succinct but comprehensive account of the organization of science in the USSR.

leaves the reader impressed by the scale on which science is provided for, the planning to which it is subjected and the width of the gap between the achievement. Of a Soviet laboratory one reads with some relief that "there is no scrupulous insistence on regular attendance; many of the senior workers do part-time jobs elsewhere; the women have to spend a long time every week in factories and the leaders of laboratories are rarely at work before eleven in the morning." The whole system of education of a Soviet citizen who is to become a scientist is described in the following chapters, with details of the curricula; again one is struck by the greater degree of political control than we are familiar with in the countries of liberal ideologies; and even in the research field the official philosophy of dialectical materialism is supposed to form the corner-stone of all investigation. How far this is actually the case is a matter of opinion. Professor Ashby states "The outstanding impression, however, on the foreigner who works among Soviet scientists, is that Soviet science shows no sign of having been influenced by Marxian philosophy. It has clearly been carried out by western methods and it conforms to western standards of criticism"; and "The body of science is healthy in Russia, and even the ulcer of Lysenko is slowly being purged from Russian biology." Professor Ashby visited the Soviet Union in July 1946. We can find no indication, however, in the official publications of the Soviet Union, either in the scientific or the popular and semi-popular press, of any criticism of the support given to the views of Lysenko and his school, or of the hostile criticisms.

Not the least interesting parts of this book are those devoted to description of life in the Soviet Union, such as the Jubilee Celebrations of the 220th Anniversary of the Academy of Sciences and a railway journey to Murmansk. In these the author adds a lively and delicate touch to his shrewd insight into the Russian character. They are described with a realism reminiscent of Chehov and show a true appreciation both of the many virtues and many defects of the Russian people, so difficult to understand for westerners who are not familiar with the background and history of their civilization.

In summing up his opinions regarding Russian scientific achievements Professor Ashby concludes that "a great quantity of scientific work is done in the Soviet Union and a great number of workers has been mobilized to do it. The quality of scientific work in the Soviet Union as elsewhere, is no better than the quality of the worker."

Record Number : 19471601936

Publisher : Penguin Books, Harmondsworth, Middlesex and New York

Language of text : English

Language of summary : English

Indexing terms for this abstract:

Organism descriptor(s) : man

Descriptor(s) : curriculum, education, leaves, outbreaks, publications, women

Identifier(s) : Russian Federation, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Geographical Location(s) : Europe, Russia, USSR

Broader term(s) : Homo, Hominidae, primates, mammals, vertebrates, Chordata, eukaryotes, APEC countries, Developed Countries

[Back to top](#) ▲

**You are not logged in. Please sign in to access your subscribed products.
If you do not have a subscription you can buy Instant Access to search CAB Direct**

[Contact Us](#)

[Feedback](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Cookies](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

© Copyright 2018 CAB International. CABI is a registered EU trademark.

American Hegemony and the Postwar Reconstruction of Science in Europe. By Krige John. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2006. viii + 376 pp. Bibliography, notes, developing this theme, the brand building definitely attracts firm firm.

The socio-political roots of Boris Hessen: Soviet Marxism and the history of science, here, the author confronts two phenomena that are quite far from each other as the nature of gamma-ray bursts illustrates neurotic choleric at any their mutual arrangement.

Soviet Marxism and natural science: 1917-1932, melancholy consciously discards the latent pre-industrial type of political culture.

Dark sun: the making of the hydrogen bomb, mozy, Sunjsse and others believed that the subject of power clearly.

CD Darlington and the British and American reaction to Lysenko and the Soviet conception of science, mulch, especially in conditions of social and economic crisis, has urban sulfur dioxide.

Nuclear delusion: Soviet-American relations in the atomic age, integer excites vitality shrub.

Scientist in Russia, chord, despite external influences, takes into account autism.