

LATTIMORE, OWEN. *The Mongols of Manchuria*. Pp. 311. New York: John Day Company, 1934. \$2.50.

During two thousand years, Mr. Lattimore avers, "the tides of Chinese history were set and controlled by the frontier of the Great Wall" (p. 23)—in a politico-military sense, obviously, rather than a cultural one. And now again on that frontier, "the general trend of events among the Mongols . . . makes for war" (34). Basic to his alarm is the assumption that "all the Mongols," widely flung though they be, "must think inevitably in terms of Mongol unification" (32)—a claim challenging the critical interest of the student of Oriental "nationalism."

Too late has China reversed its imperialistic policy of exploiting and "exterminating" the Mongols as a racial group, now agreeing to suspend the seizure of their land for Chinese colonists to the profit of grafting officials. Since 1931 Manchukuo's "essentially liberal" policy toward the two million Mongols in her western buffer province of Hsingan has shown the million Mongols of Inner Mongolia that another escape from the Chinese crusher is possible besides flight into Soviet arms. Moreover, as Japan knows, Pu-Yi, actually crowned, draws Mongols by the sheer magnetism of old Mongol-Manchu traditions. And Nippon cannot fail to support moves by her own Manchukuoan Mongols. In fact, bluntly, Japan's Manchukuo-Manchurian venture "is a completely senseless product of violence unless it means the opening up of the far more comprehensive question of Mongolia" (15).

"If a Japanese forward policy in Inner Mongolia is inevitable, a clash between Inner and Outer Mongolia is no less inevitable" (31). But there the Soviet Union, like Japan, cannot fail to support her million Mongol protégés. And that (though Mr. Lattimore is regrettably much more incomplete in stating the Asiatic policy of the Soviet Union and the Communist International) sets the stage for the major conflict of the Far East.

This political analysis and its historical background—utilizing certain of Mr. Latti-

more's previously published magazine articles, and rather journalistic in its logic, its rhetorical arrangement, and its occasional repetition—occupies but 130 pages of about 275 words each. Fully 145 pages are then devoted to very brief linguistic, historical, ethnological, geographical, and political data on one separate tribe, league, and banner of Mongols after another. This part might well be set off as an appendix with more rote systematization and amplification, or developed into a reference handbook with still further maps.

It is to be hoped that the publishers will persuade the author to return to the major assumptions and contentions of the book and provide the serious reader with a more detailed, systematic, and reasoned presentation of the actual data supporting them. The meat of his experience and research on this important *terra incognita* is needed.

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HAUSER, HENRI. *La Prépondérance Espagnole*. Pp. 594. Paris: Librairie Felix Alcan, 1933. 60 Fr.

This is another volume in the series called *Peuples et Civilizations*, a general history, published under the editorship of Louis Halphen and Philippe Sagnac. The high standard maintained in this series so far is continued in this volume, which is the second by Professor Hauser dealing with the period of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. From a veteran in the field of economic and cultural history, it was to be expected that economic and cultural factors would be given prominence in this volume without doing violence to the traditional political framework of historical writing. The wide front of historical action which is covered by the years 1559–1660 is handled with great skill and lucidity, the style being clear and even elegant at times. Very properly, the political center is placed in Spain but the economic center in Holland; at the same time attention is also paid to the whole range of historical phenomena during the period, including Japan.

One welcomes the discussion of the formation of social classes in France with their corresponding attitudes, and one