

solid biography, however, since sources for Muscovite history are such that even with proper examination of all of them the historian is generally unable to provide a full portrait of even the most important individuals. A good portion of Mr. Grey's book deals with events that occurred prior to the advent of Boris around 1570—material that the author has covered in previous books but apparently not brought up to date for this volume. Even when the author gets into the career of Boris, he should perhaps have been more cautious than he is in relating what "Boris did."

In examining a new popular history of Tsar Boris, one thinks immediately of earlier such popularizations, in particular the classic by the eminent scholar S. F. Platonov, published in Russian in 1921 (as *Boris Godunov*) and recently translated into English. Where Platonov is sober and judicious, Grey remains too attracted to Karamzin's colorful but not necessarily historical elaboration. But this is not to say that Grey ignores Platonov's work, which he cites in a number of places. In fact, in many instances Grey relies very heavily on Platonov, structuring whole paragraphs after the latter's, paraphrasing, and teetering on the edge of something much less forgivable, often without giving adequate credit. While there is not room here to provide parallel texts, one may take as examples the first full paragraph on page 83 in Grey's book, which is little other than a quotation from Platonov (1921, p. 24), and this is followed by a long paraphrase from the same; Grey, beginning at the bottom of page 86 (two sentences), is almost exactly the same as Platonov (p. 25); Grey's sentence on page 88, "Dionysii found himself in a false position," is surely from Platonov, "Dionisii . . . okazalsia v lozhnom polozhenii" (p. 29); Grey's page 108 is cut and spliced from Platonov, pages 60-61; and so on.

The general reader may find such questions of little consequence—Mr. Grey's account is, after all, a readable tale, a bit more accurate than a lot of the popular rubbish one can find on Russian history. The scholar will await Professor R. G. Skrynnikov's full-scale study of Muscovy in the time of Boris Godunov soon to be published in Leningrad.

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IAN GREY. *Boris Godunov: The Tragic Tsar*. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1973. Pp. 188. \$8.95.

Ian Grey is well known for his serious and generally well-researched popularizations of Russian history. His *Boris Godunov* is a work in the same tradition, one that on first acquaintance makes a favorable impression for its clarity and declared aim to avoid some of the romantic excesses of those who have portrayed the subject in the past (notably Karamzin, Pushkin, and Musorgski).

The reader will not find in *Boris Godunov*