

Willey, Gordon R. and Jeremy A. Sabloff

1974 *A History of American Archaeology*, Thames and Hudson, London.

1980 *A History of American Archaeology* (2nd edition), W. H. Freeman, San Francisco.

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5334/bha.04105>

Western and Russian Historiography: Recent Views, edited by Henry Koziicki, St. Martin's Press, New York, 1993. 218 pp. \$49.95.

Andrew L. Christenson
Prescott, Arizona

This collection illustrates the transition occurring in Russian historiography from a government-directed monolith to a more diverse discipline looking to internationalize and gain new directions. Although focused upon a Russian perspective, the volume includes discussions of issues such as history as science and history as narrative that are of major concern to many Western historians. Readers interested in a more Western focus on these and related topics should see another volume by the same editor and publisher, *Developments in Modern Historiography* (1993).

Although neither the history of archaeology or even the history of science is a topic in this volume, a reader interested in these areas is led to wonder how this great political/intellectual change will effect archaeology. The history of Soviet archaeology is virtually unknown in the West and I am uncertain if the topic was pursued very much in the former Soviet Union. A brief, politically-correct, post-Stalinist summary is provided by Mongait (1961), but the book by Miller (1956) provides a more likely and more distressing view of Stalinist archaeology, including the observation that Soviet archaeologists had life-spans one-half that of their bourgeois counterparts (p. 161)!

This volume provides many examples of Soviet historians forced into limited paths of interpretation and we should expect that such pressures were placed upon archaeologists and historians of archaeology as well. We can only hope than now that such pressures have been reduced, that we will see more publications on the history of Soviet/Russian archaeology available for non-Russian reading audiences.

References Cited

Miller, Mikhail
1956 *Archaeology in the U.S.S.R.*, Praeger, New York

Mongait, A. L.
1961 *Archaeology in the U.S.S.R.* Penguin, Baltimore (published in Russian in 1955).