Book Review

Biographical Dictionary of Russian and Soviet Economists

Robert Campbell

Available on the Web and CD. January, 2005, version.

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Comparativists of a certain age schooled in Soviet economics will remember the important articles published by Bob Campbell on Soviet economic thought, along with his many books on applied subjects. For many years, Bob has collected information about Russian and Soviet economists working from the beginning of the 20th century to our own times. Such an invaluable reference tool is unfortunately not very commercial, although in truth every economist working on the Soviet economy ought to own it.

Campbell has decided to make this work available to everyone on CDs. It includes 326 entries of approximately 200–500 words on well known and often fairly obscure economists, including their sources in the Russian language and the economist's known works. You will find biographies of such stars as Miliutin, Kantorovich, Bukharin, Chayanov, and Preobrazhensky, and of contemporary standouts such as V Polterovich, E Gaidar, G Gref, and E Primakov. Birth date and marital status are usually given, but not nationality. Statisticians, economic historians, and regional specialists are not well represented, but contributors to mathematical economics and theory are there in force. Naturally, the coverage of each economist differs with what is presently known, but Campbell invites colleagues to submit additional materials and corrections. Treatment is mostly objective and factual, with a few critical and analytical comments, but that leaves room for further study of a remarkable group of men (very few women) who worked and achieved, even under difficult circumstances.

One can obtain a copy at php.Indiana.edu/~campbell/home.html/.

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