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Book Reviews

Wassily Leontief et la science économique

by Amanar Akhabbar, ENS Éditions, Lyon, 2019. 262 pp., €21 (Paperback), ISBN 979-1036200885

Antoine Missemer

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by Solchany to his growing transnationalism and anti-government stance. This took him somewhat to the right of the neoliberals in the MPS, and by the early 1960s he had embraced much of American neoconservatism, was a supporter of Barry Goldwater as a Presidential candidate and a champion of William F. Buckley.

Cultural pessimism rooted in "the possibilities that enabled industrialisation and economic growth for broad layers of society are simultaneously the catalysts of crisis" (205) drives Röpke's formulation of liberalism, where the "natural order" will outlast the state. This attachment to natural order foreshadows some of the New Institutionalism associated with North; but alarmingly, as Goldschmidt and Dorr reveal, his support for apartheid in South Africa is reactionary, elitist and fundamentally racist.

Röpke's conception of bourgeoise culture is explored by Schneider, consisting of "virtues, norms and institutions" (223) concluding that Röpke, "has a conception of culture but lacks a systematic theory backing it." (228) This lack of a unifying theory ombining economics with social philosophy is exposed as a weakness of Röpke's thought. The exposition of his proximity to James Buchanan, which concludes the volume, unconvincingly asserts that despite the core amorality of Public Choice this is close to Röpke's highly ethically based conception of the market economy.

Overall, this book offers a timely reminder of the importance of Röpke to liberal thought in the twentieth Century, but lacks a narrative of Röpke's intellectual development and how it responded to time and place. Undoubtedly, Röpke was a liberal economist who valued the market economy, and added to the understanding of business cycles; but ultimately he did not trust the market to produce solutions in accord with his reactionary social philosophy, which is shown to be enormously out of joint with the industrial and societal developments of his time. Schneider aptly quotes Gregg: "It is a good thing Röpke died before 1968; he would not have survived it" (23).

Charles Rose
King's College London, London, UK
charles.rose@kcl.ac.uk

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Wassily Leontief et la science économique, by Amanar Akhabbar, ENS Éditions, Lyon, 2019, 262 pp., €21 (Paperback), ISBN 979-1-03620-088-5

The collection *Feuillets d'économie politique moderne* of the *ENS Éditions* consists of introductory essays to the economic ideas of major post-WWII thinkers, on the basis of a detailed presentation and analysis of a founding or significant text of the literature. The eighth volume is devoted to Wassily Leontief and is written by Amanar Akhabbar, an associate professor at ESSCA School of Management (Paris), and also a historian of economic thought who has worked on Leontief for many years.

Wassily Leontief et la science économique is longer than other publications in the collection, and it offers an essentially methodological analysis. Rather than providing a comprehensive presentation of Leontief's economics, Akhabbar opts for a perspective that allows

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