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The Social Basis of American Communism

Nathan Glazer

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BOOKS

Lukacs, John A. *A History of the Cold War*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1961. 288 p.

This book, while manifestly only an outline of the history of the Cold War, traces the thread of its development with care and great clarity. A flashback technique from the confrontation of United States and Russian troops in April 1945 traces briefly the history of the two countries up to the beginning of the Second World War. Subsequently, the author leads the reader down the twisting, turning corridor which represents the course of the 15 years following the close of World War II. He very artfully weaves into the pattern all the side issues, and with masterful self-restraint, gives the reader an appreciation of these subsidiary issues without slowing down the pace of the story.

Glazer, Nathan. *The Social Basis of American Communism*. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1961. 244 p.

This brief but excellent study of the membership of the American Communist Party deals with two major questions. First, from what social, political, economic and ethnic strata did the Communist Party recruit its membership? Second, why did persons from these groups join the Party? In answering these questions, Dr. Glazer discusses three other related problems: Why was the Party desirous of attracting certain types of membership? What arguments were used to appeal to these various audiences? And, implicit in the foregoing, why was the Party able to draw a membership of only 100,000 or so even during its heyday?

Drummond, Roscoe and Coblentz, Gaston. *Duel at the Brink*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1960. 240 p.

This work is a collection of the impressions of 14 present and former government heads and 42 senior