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...primary history since
Alban Morehead's *Gallipoli*. It is written with a soldier's eye for significant detail and a scholar's respect for the facts, palatable and otherwise. None of the staff studies I have read, including that published by the Training and Doctrine Command of the United States Army, is as concise and pointed as the author's final chapter on "Lessons and Implications" [See excerpt Page 4].

Some idols are toppled and some illusions dissipated in the course of this cool, masterly analysis. Moshe Dayan, the Minister of Defense, does not cut an impressive figure in these pages: "The shock of the war caused something to snap in Dayan," Herzog writes, and the perceptive reader will notice instances throughout the book when the Defense Minister's indecision—"havering," the Scots would call it—was harmful to the hard-pressed Israelis.

The account of the fighting on the Syrian and Egyptian fronts is excellent. The key actions in two confused and complex battles are dissected. Israeli as well as Arab weaknesses are exposed. This is history, not an apology.

HERZOG'S discussion of the Egyptian and Arab military preparations for the October war—written, of course, from the outside without the intimate knowledge possessed by Heikal—compares very favorably in significant aspects with the Egyptian author's authoritative account. The Israeli soldier-diplomat-commentator, unlike

Israel's second major error, General Herzog believes, was "the stubborn assumption of the Israeli defense and military establishment that the unrealistic and unfavorable ratio of forces along the borders was adequate to hold any Egyptian or Syrian attack."

This is perfectly true. And, as

prised, outgunned and, at times, outfought, turned defeat into victory. And, because this is history and not propaganda, Herzog also pays tribute to the tenacity and bravery of the Egyptian and Syrian soldiers who, despite scandalous mishandling and appalling errors in command, fought on to the end. ■

The Shtetl Revisited

THE SHTETL BOOK. By Diane and David Roskies. Ktav. 327 pp. \$10.00 (5.95 paperback).

THE Jews of the *shtetl* would have made a *brokho* over this book if they could have seen it. For it was written by two young American Jews who never saw a *shtetl* but are devoting their lives to the study of the East European Jewish heritage.

The Roskies have made a valuable contribution to Jewish education with this book, for they give the reader a strong sense of what the world of the *shtetl* was like. What they have done is take one townlet—Tishevitz in the Lublin province—and make it an archetype of all the others.

They deal with the whole of the *shtetl*, the good and the bad. They provide a map and talk about the mill and the bridges, and not just the study houses and synagogues. They describe the folklore and the superstitions of

the community, as well as its many noble ideals and institutions.

There are pictures here of children and of old men, rabbis and wagon drivers; of the first Jewish strike, and the first woman dentist; of a Jewish orchestra, and of the marketplace. They have even managed to find some examples of the games that the *shtetl*'s children played, such as the numbers game that used pages of the Bible and the spelling game based on Noah's name.

One of the book's most moving passages is a popular lullaby which tells of a mother and child waiting patiently for their husband and father who has gone to America to earn enough so that he can send for them. As they wait, they dream about what America will be like.

It is hard for some young Americans to conceive of what a golden country America once seemed to those who came here from Europe. We take America

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for granted now, we simply assume its blessings.

The town of Tishevitz is gone now, together with many of the others. It went down, first under the persecution of the Czars, and then under the wrath of the Nazis. But it did not completely disappear. Something of its spirit went along in steerage with those who came to America and to Israel. This book explains why.

—JACK RIEMER

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