ward accommodation with the West, but growing military strength has encouraged it to expand its influence around the world. Beneath such inconsistency lies a fundamental shift among Soviet leaders: Having long coerced their people in order to bring about social change, they now do so in order to arrest it. Thus, Bialer reasons, of all industrialized nations, the USSR is "undoubtedly the most frozen, conservative, and Victorian," even as its leaders continue to ally Russia with "liberation" movements elsewhere. Brezhnev's Soviet Union has become a nation at once reactionary *and* revolutionary.

**THE U.S. COAL
INDUSTRY:
The Economics of
Policy Choice**
by Martin B. Zimmerman
MIT, 1981
205 pp. $25

A vital product whose market drastically declined after World War II, American coal has been making a steady recovery since the early 1960s. Spurring the upsurge has been Americans' rapidly rising consumption of electricity, for which coal is the most popular fuel (ahead of nuclear power). But the comeback has had a geographic twist. In 1960, some 95 percent of U.S. coal was mined east of the Mississippi; by the year 2000, if current projections hold true, more than 50 percent will come from the West. Federal restrictions on sulfur dioxide emission are largely responsible for the shift, writes Zimmerman, an MIT energy management specialist. Though the environmental costs of its mining (mainly, strip mining) will be high, and though its heating value is considerably lower than that of Appalachian coal, only "clean" Western coal *easily* meets the federal standard. Sticking with the present federal limits could cost Americans $5.4 billion in added processing and transportation in 1985 alone. And Easterners will suffer the brunt of the increase. Neither coal nor nuclear power competes with oil for most energy markets, so their accelerated development is unlikely to affect U.S. oil imports. But tradeoffs will have to be made between environmental goals and sufficient production of electricity using coal and nuclear power.