

## *Mission Unfulfilled*

**Marshall in China**, by John Robinson Beal, *Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1970. 385 pp. \$7.95.*

JOHN ROBINSON BEAL, who has written biographies of Lester Pearson and John Foster Dulles, retired in Ottawa in 1966 after a long career in journalism, working for the United Press from 1929 to 1944, then as news editor for *Time* in Washington, D. C., and lastly as *Time's* bureau chief in Ottawa. In early 1946 he accepted an invitation to join General Marshall's mission to China, and thus became an advisor to the National Government of China. Told that his job was "to keep the Chinese out of trouble with the United States," and "to get to China as fast as possible," Beal had no

the light of its past. The nation-building efforts made by the Nationalist government, particularly in the political and economic fields, bore profound and far-reaching consequences in the years that followed.

To provide a historical study of the activities of the Nationalist government from 1927 to 1937, St. John's University, as part of its Centennial Year celebration, sponsored a ten-day symposium on modern China, organized by Dr. Sih and attended by prominent scholars and experts. Most of the participants had made direct or indirect contributions to the nation-building program, so that the proceedings provide valuable and original sources for research into modern Chinese history. Dr. Sih's introduction includes a comprehensive outline of the modernization process between 1894 and 1945.

The subjects covered include the international situation of China in the years before 1927, the subsequent political reconstruction, the modernization of currency and banking, the new economic and agricultural policies, the program of railroad construction, and the educational reforms. The symposiasts attest to the successful efforts at modernization in these various fields; a conspicuous example is the organization of the fiscal and revenue systems described by Dr. Poe. Even more impressive is the evidence relating to railroad construction and the formulation of a new educational program. All the symposiasts appear to agree that the only reason that some of the nation-building activity had to be left unfinished was the outbreak of the Japanese war in 1937.

Informative statistical tables occur throughout the book, and at the end there is an excellent chronology of the ten-year period from which the reader may gather a knowledge of the manifold external and internal problems confronting the Nationalist government and its successes in coping with them. As in all such symposia, the contributions represent differing varieties of

specialization, differing phases of scholarship and therefore differing levels of interest for individual readers. This disadvantage, however, is largely removed by the commentaries that follow each paper, so that the necessarily heterogeneous discussions are wrought into a comprehensive whole.

This book sheds much new light on Nationalist China and should force the fair-minded reader to a reevaluation of the Nationalist government. It presents new materials, especially in the fields of political and ideological history, and above all, new ideas relating to issues of paramount importance. It belongs in the library of every historian and every serious student of Chinese affairs.

Reviewed by HELEN KU

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### *Roots of Conservatism*

**The Conservative Tradition in European Thought:** an anthology selected and edited by Robert Schuettinger, *New York: G. Putnam's Sons, 1970. 385 pp. \$6.95.*

FOR MANY YEARS there has existed a need for an anthology in English as well as for a historical survey which would give a comprehensive view of the entire range of conservative political thought in Europe. Russell Kirk's *The Conservative Mind from Burke to Eliot* has provided a definitive history of the variety and development of conservative thought in Great Britain and the United States, while Peter Viereck's *Conservatism from John Adams to Churchill* has provided an intentionally abbreviated and introductory coverage to the same areas. In popular studies confined exclusively to American conservative thought, William