

BOOK REVIEWS

Traits of empire

C.R. Brand

STANDING in an African flower-pot, a pop-eyed, stick-figured ET — displaying an enviable claim to masculinity — looks out from the cover of *The Biology of Human Conduct*. Browsers will presume that some kind of sociobiology or anthropology is in store, and that the Western models of the sub-title are to encounter yet another challenge from the mysterious East. The only clue that matters are otherwise is provided by the author's position in the Department of Experimental Psychology at the University of Oxford — several of whose members are to be put in, together with H. J. Eysenck, to bat for the West, while Pavlov, Teplov, Nebylitsyn and Strelau (in Warsaw) represent the trait-psychology of the East. Thus, in the hope of a crowd, are British psychometrician-psychologists and Russian psychophysiologicalists made to confront each other.

The match turns out to be something of a friendly. All the contestants certainly accept as ground-rules the importance of such questions as: "What are the major (independent) dimensions of personality?"; "What individual differences in psychophysiological mechanisms and processes underlie these behavioural dimensions?"; and "Are such differences partly genetic in origin?". Nor is there radical disagreement as to methods: indeed, some Western readers will be surprised by the prevalence of twin-studies in the countries of the Eastern bloc. As the humanistic fashion of Western psychology decrees, Mangan frequently steps aside to admit that the agreed questions are simple and that reality is complex; but, though Freud, Jung, Piaget and Wilhelm Reich are occasionally called upon to plug holes, the bulk of the book is concerned with the laboratory investigation of Extraversion (alias strength, or non-reactivity, of the nervous system), Neuroticism (alias dynamism) and similar putative dimensions of personality such as "mobility", "lability" and "irradiation of inhibition". Quotations provide the occasional diversion: "Only idealists can speak of thinking without language" (J. V. Stalin, 1951).

Regrettably, the contest staged by the author is a colossal disappointment. Not only does the reader quickly realize that the result is going to be a messy draw, but he learns that Mangan will not even allow there to be a Man of the Match. The preface itself sets the depressive tone by announcing that the book contains "the detritus" of Mangan's 20-year interest in

The Biology of Human Conduct: East-West Models of Temperament and Personality. By G.L. Mangan. Pp.571. ISBN 0-08-026781-5. (Pergamon: 1982.) £35, \$72.

personality; and Mangan soon makes it clear that his regard for the theorists whose work he considers is so beset with scholarly inhibition that he cannot allow the reader the luxury of having any of their theories set out at length. Even his own favourite theme — the importance of the "mobility" dimension — is forever the subject of allusion rather than development; so he can hardly afford to indulge Gray and Strelau. That psychological scientists will have to refer to this reference-packed work or to dismiss the East altogether is the best that can be said.

Mangan's lack of panache may be of situational rather than personological origin. Although the Russians have lately relaxed Stalin's ban on IQ-testing, Soviet typological theory of personality seems to be in a Lysenkoist mess. The fact is that the firmly materialistic and "biological" work that Mangan reports has been tolerated over the years only on the understanding

that it has nothing to do with important psychological differences between people — which differences are considered in the East to be matters of nurture rather than of nature. As Mangan politely puts it when discussing work at the Kiev Institute, "There is no suggestion, of course, of any relationship between nervous system properties and intellectual endowment . . .". Thus Soviet differential psychophysiologicalists are left to play with somewhat hypothetical variants of Eysenck's E and N, since these dimensions repeatedly manifest themselves even in laboratories that draw on Soviet sophomores for their subjects. But General Intelligence (*g*) is denied them, and they have no certain method for discovering dimensions of personality just because, if they did have one, they might discover *g* for themselves. Mangan's tolerance of this state of affairs allows him to be the dispassionate, if dispiriting, reporter of years of Soviet endeavour — so perhaps the problem with this book is personological after all. □

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A mixed bag of andesites

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Andesites: Orogenic Andesites and Related Rocks. Edited by R. S. Thorpe. Pp.724. ISBN 0-471-208034-8. (Wiley: 1982.) \$134, £59.50.

ANDESITIC volcanoes are forced to the attention of the general public in sometimes unpredictably violent ways involving loss of livelihood and even life. In developed nations, like Japan and the United States, advanced technology is applied to monitoring and forecasting of dangerous eruptions, but given the lengthy repose cycles typical of these volcanoes a great deal remains to be learnt of their behaviour.

In other ways, the products of andesitic volcanoes are fascinating in that their composition and isotopic characteristics provide clues to the nature of the processes that occur in the upper mantle and crust of the Earth during the collision of lithospheric plates. It is possible that the magmatic activity associated with these plate collisions has been an important

agent in the extraction on a geological timescale of continent-forming material from the mantle.

In *Andesites*, R. S. Thorpe has assembled contributions from over 50 authors reviewing many of the intriguing aspects of this type of magmatism. Subjects covered range through classification of andesitic rock types, petrology and mineralogy, chemical and isotopic features, and description of the distribution and characteristics of active andesitic volcanoes excluding only the Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Philippine and Soviet Union segments of the Pacific rim. Eruptive styles, evolution of andesitic volcanism through time, major types of andesite-associated mineral deposits and experimentally-based studies of petrogenesis are also included.

Clear diagrams and print make the book visually pleasing, and the reader will emerge from the whole volume with an appreciation of some of the main points of current debate on the sources and