

From the *Slavic Review* Editorial Board:

*Slavic Review* publishes signed letters to the editor by individuals with educational or research merit. Where the letter concerns a publication in *Slavic Review*, the author of the publication will be offered an opportunity to respond. Space limitations dictate that comment regarding a book review should be restricted to one paragraph of no more than 250 words; comment on an article or forum should not exceed 750 to 1,000 words. When we receive many letters on a topic, some letters will be published on the *Slavic Review* Web site with opportunities for further discussion. Letters may be submitted by e-mail, but a signed copy on official letterhead or with a complete return address must follow. The editor reserves the right to refuse to print, or to publish with cuts, letters that contain personal abuse or otherwise fail to meet the standards of debate expected in a scholarly journal.

To the Editor:

Laura Phillips's thoughtful review of my book *Russia's Factory Children* (vol. 69, no. 4) raises several issues that I would like to address. I argue that beginning in the 1850s (rather than 1800, as Phillips suggests) society's changing attitudes about child labor—from initial acceptance to condemnation—resulted in the introduction of labor protection and welfare laws. The elements of society involved included educated elites (doctors, educators, and other concerned individuals), low-level government officials, and even workers whose protests against the exploitation of child labor set off the discussions in the first place. Had my vision of society included only industrialists, as Phillips suggests, then how could I have portrayed the reforms, which, as I repeatedly note, the industrialists consistently opposed? By introducing reforms, the state in the end ceased responding to industrialists and responded instead to broader social pressures, a process I describe in detail. Phillips suggests that I might have consulted Ol'ga Semenova Tian-Shanskaia's study, a wider selection of workers' memoirs, the workers' press, and so forth, all helpful and obvious suggestions, of course. In fact, I did consult these and many other sources, most of which were silent on the issue of child labor or added nothing new. Included in the bibliography were the sources that shed meaningful light on the topic at hand. On the issue of late tsarist autocracy, my book aligns itself with a series of new studies that highlight late imperialist autocracy's limits by broadening our understanding of the public sphere, civil society, and social elements, including peasants.

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Professor Phillips chooses not to respond.