



## **G. L. Seidler**

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Foreword to G. L. Seidler, *The Emergence of the Eastern World: Seven Essays on Political Ideas* (Oxford etc., 1968: Pergamon), ix



*Grzegorz Leopold Seidler*

I AM not qualified to comment on the essays on *The Emergence of the Eastern World* of the Rector of the University of Lublin, but I welcome the appearance of a book by this distinguished Polish scholar whom, since his visit to Oxford some years ago, I have held in admiration and respect and am glad to call a personal friend. Western historians of political theory have confined themselves, naturally perhaps but regrettably, to a somewhat narrow preoccupation with social and political thought only in Western Europe: this is the canon, and few scholars look or see beyond it. It is a service to scholarship and to the widening of the historical horizon, largely due to the growing power of the Soviet Union and the Chinese Republic, that these perspectives should begin to seem outdated.

That a Polish work on the social ideas of a great empire which affected the development of Eastern Europe should now appear in English is a sign (it is to be hoped) of a return to a freer circulation of ideas, and the destruction of walls in the world of learning. Like Marie Curie-Skłodowska, after whom his university is named, Dr

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Seidler is a champion of humanity and reason, and I wish him and his work very well indeed.

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