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Comment

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Rukhin and Hsieh should be thanked for preparing this survey because it must have involved considerable time and effort to dig out and interpret such a large volume of research work. However, this survey article could be by no means a complete review of Soviet work in reliability theory. An excellent short survey of Soviet work in asymptotic methods in reliability

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theory appeared in *Advances in Applied Probability* by Gertsbakh (1984). Rukhin and Hsieh have expanded their survey to include additional topics in reliability theory. It would have been helpful had they also mentioned the related excellent work of Brown (1987), Brown and Ge (1984) and Keilson (1979, 1986) in this country, because their work is very close and overlaps in many respects the work of the Gnedenko school of reliability at Moscow University.

One of us (Khalil) was a Ph.D. thesis student of Gnedenko at the beginning of the era of the Moscow school of reliability theory. He studied at Moscow University from 1963–1969 and has kept in contact with Gnedenko. Hence, we will first give a short