

1990

Security in Northeast Asia

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Recommended Citation

Cloward, R.S. (1990) "Security in Northeast Asia," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 43 : No. 3 , Article 35.
Available at: <http://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol43/iss3/35>

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sity in its clients' ideology. The simplistic idea of Moscow orchestrating these countries as ideologue puppet states is fantasy, not fact. Sixth, Soviet intervention has generally enhanced its prestige among nonaligned nations. And finally, Soviet leadership has often been willing to intervene significantly in the Third World, irrespective of possible adverse effects on its relationship with the United States, often to the consternation of U.S. officials who want to believe that the Soviet Union places the same importance as the United States does on mutual, good relations.

Soviet activities in the Third World are neither mindlessly adventurous and troublemaking as some imagine, nor are they always successful. But its involvements there have impacted on U.S. foreign policy in three major ways: It has limited U.S. options; raised the cost of safeguarding U.S. interests; and intensified anti-Americanism. One aim of the Soviet strategy appears to be to elicit U.S. responses that are disproportionately costly compared both to Soviet outlays and to the intrinsic importance of the region, the crisis, or the protagonist(s).

Moscow's involvement in the Third World has a reputation for credibility based upon a demonstrable record of dependability, consistency, and capability. Once it unequivocally committed itself, Moscow stayed the course, irrespective of military or economic costs, or adverse effects on its relationship with the United States.

Most of us need to know more about Moscow's strategy in the Third World. Rubinstein, a Senior Fellow of the Foreign Policy Research Institute, offers us a readable, challenging book that provides a great deal of insight into this important subject. I recommend it strongly.

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Gibert, Stephen P., ed. *Security in Northeast Asia: Approaching the Pacific Century*. Boulder, Col.: Westview Press, 1987. 193pp. \$19
Simon, Sheldon. *The Future of Asian-Pacific Security Collaboration*. Lexington, Mass.: Lexington Books, 1988. 177pp. \$29

"U.S. policy toward Japan is so confused and uncoordinated that many U.S. officials say they cannot figure out how it is made or why economic concerns are regularly subordinated to military and political objectives." Thus read a *New York Times News Service* article on one aspect of our foreign policy towards Asia.

Stephen Gibert, Director of National Security Studies, states that we are approaching a "Pacific Century." To prove his point he has presented eight papers that attempt to provide a comprehensive and integrated discussion of Northeast Asia and its relationship to the United States and world security concerns. Two sections on diplo-

macy and power contain discussions that center on the Sino-Soviet-U.S. triangle, Japan and the Soviet Union, the politics of Japanese defense, prospects for Korean security, the Philippines after Marcos and the isolation of island China—a varied and daunting agenda. This followed by an excellent summary of military balances in Northeast Asia and an overview of Chinese military modernization. The latter article is a graphic reminder of the distance China has to go to join the ranks of military superpowers.

Editor Gibert opens and closes “Security in Northeast Asia” and contributes a chapter on U.S.-Taiwan relations. Like most collections, there are uneven spots, but the sum of the book’s parts is worthwhile reading. Professor Gibert echoes the *New York Times* report that “The United States currently does not have a coherent policy with regard to Japan. Somehow it has been forgotten that a country needs a national security strategy for friends as well as enemies. Devising a strategy toward Japan, with regard to both trade and defense, is the single most important task confronting the United States in Northeast Asia.” Parenthetically, Gibert also suggests the possibility that in another area, the Philippines, the time may come “when the United States may have to forcefully intervene. . . .”

Sheldon Simon’s book is a single-author study and therefore is slightly more focused than the Gibert volume. It also has more tables and figures and

an extended index. The author explores the prospects of developing new and stronger security relations in the Asia-Pacific region between the United States, its allies and friends, and the Soviet Union and its clients. He begins by stating that “the stage appears to be set for either a direct superpower confrontation in Asia within the next several years or a proxy conflict in which Washington and Moscow back their respective clients’ regional ambitions.” The author discusses several issues that are nicely tied together in a closing chapter on cross-regional security collaboration.

He concludes that it is time for arrangements that “would honor nationalist sentiment antithetical to exclusive foreign bases on one’s territory, and increase regional security collaborations,” and yet provide U.S. air and naval facilities in the area.

Sheldon Simon, Dr. Gibert and his contributors agree on many points, one that should be a “given”: by shifting emphasis from a Eurocentric perspective to one more Asia-oriented, the United States can, tap its enormous potential for success in the Pacific century. Contrary to the now popular notions of national decline, the rise of Asia need not mean the setting of America’s sun.

Both books are excellent examples of their respective types. Gibert’s book, in my opinion, is probably of more value to the Asia specialist, while the Simon book provides an excellent overview for the reader wishing to catch the crest

of the Pacific wave as we do indeed approach the Pacific century.

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Lin, Chong-Pin. *China's Nuclear Weapons Strategy: Tradition within Evolution*. Lexington, Mass.: Lexington Books, 1988. 272pp. \$40

Wortzel, Larry M., ed. *China's Military Modernization: International Implications*. New York: Greenwood Press, 1988. 204pp. \$37.95

Godwin, Paul H. B. *The Chinese Communist Armed Forces*. Alabama: Air Univ. Press, 1988. 163pp. \$8.50

In view of China's enormous potential as a national power, its government is determined to play a major role in regional and global affairs. Therefore, the United States must carefully monitor the People's Liberation Army's (PLA) modernization and assess its impact on U.S. interests in the Asia-Pacific region. These three books contribute to this analysis by discussing various aspects of China's armed forces.

China's Nuclear Weapons Strategy examines this topic in the context of Chinese strategic tradition. The author has extensively relied upon Chinese sources not available in English, and has used unpublished Chinese materials obtained from Taiwan's archives on mainland military affairs. A national security affairs specialist, Lin is well-qualified to compare Chinese strate-

gic thinking with that of the United States and the Soviet Union.

China's Military Modernization is number 72 in the "Contributions in Military Science" series. It is a collection of papers presented at a conference in 1986, and subsequently amended to include some 1987 material. In addition to the editor, the authors include active duty Army officers and civilian specialists in Chinese affairs.

Topics include domestic constraints limiting the modernization of the PLA, American and Chinese strategic approaches to the use and deterrent value of strategic and battlefield nuclear weapons, modernization of the PLA under Deng, the relationship between Sino-Soviet tensions and PLA's modernization, China's response to SDI, and U.S. export control policies relating to U.S. military assistance to the PLA.

Paul Godwin's book is an excellent overview of the development of the Chinese armed forces in an effort to explain why the Chinese military establishment approaches its current problems the way it does.

Unfortunately, in all three books, much of the material is outdated due to events in 1988 and 1989. However, Lin's outstanding scholarship and thorough research is a great contribution toward the understanding of how China views its nuclear forces. Wortzel, in his choice of essays, has given us a comprehensive explanation of the domestic factors behind the PLA's modernization, and Godwin's text is unexcelled for background information.