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The Truman-MacArthur Controversy and the Korean War

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Spanier, John W. *The Truman-MacArthur Controversy and the Korean War*. Cambridge, Mass., Harvard University Press, 1959. 311 p.

President Truman, in April 1951, relieved General Douglas MacArthur of all his commands in the Far East for publicly opposing the policies of the United States Government. This, at a time when the country faced one of its gravest and most emotional constitutional crises. The issue involved civilian supremacy in the conduct of both military and governmental functions, since General MacArthur's actions and public statements, both in the military and political spheres, represented a threat and a challenge to the President's authority as commander-in-chief and chief diplomat to determine the nation's foreign policy. This book deals with that crisis and that issue. The author covers in detail the progress of the Korean War from the North Korean aggression of June 1950 to the end of the MacArthur hearings before a committee of Congress in July 1951. He traces the relations between the political aims of the war and military strategy, domestic politics and allied differences, and he analyzes the military, political and diplomatic factors which resulted in the controversy. Fundamentally, the aim of the author is to explore the question of whether the principle of civilian control over the military is compatible with the waging of limited war in today's world. The author presents evidence to show that the very functioning of our normal democratic processes, plus the American penchant for ideological crusades, exerts tremendous pressures to change a controlled conflict with limited aims into a total effort for complete victory. He suggests that history might easily repeat itself in case of another limited conflict. A very well written and interesting book.

Deriabin, Peter and Gibney, Frank. *The Secret World*. Garden City, N. Y., Doubleday, 1959. 334 p.

The Secret World is a biography of a former Soviet secret police official who, at 33, fled to the West. Written in the third