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Patrick Blackett: Sailor, Scientist, Socialist,

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understanding with the Soviet Union (a position favored by some influential opinions in the United States) nor to create trouble for the French government, seemingly both dependent on and threatened by the French Communist Party.

The Soviet-menace card was played on several occasions in the unfolding debate, but in general it was subordinated to more abstract arguments of enlightened self-interest. Moreover, it was clear to many in the administration that too great an emphasis on the imminence of war with Russia would scuttle both the recovery program and universal military training in favor of a general wartime mobilization. In effect, although Soviet pressures certainly provided the needed ingredient for legislative success, they also had the potential to divert the country from the recovery program itself. Later events would ultimately modify the balance between economic assistance and military mobilization—but that is another story, beyond the scope of this fine book.

Finally, it should be noted that Bonds has the ability to tell a story clearly, at times even breezily, and analyze without cumbersome jargon. For clarity and sophistication, this is likely to be a standard reference for some time to come.

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Hore, Peter, ed. *Patrick Blackett: Sailor, Scientist, Socialist*. Portland, Ore.: Frank Cass, 2003. 330pp. \$59.50

Patrick Maynard Stuart Blackett was a key member of the international circle of scientists who led the Allied defense research efforts of World War II, and

he was the heart and soul of the Cold War military-academic-industrial complex. In this book, sixteen authors attempt to shed light on Blackett's role in that story. The collection includes papers presented at a 1998 conference commemorating Blackett at Cambridge University, as well as other recent writings about him.

Not surprisingly, the compendium offers a range of perspectives on events and issues with which Blackett was associated, rather than a comprehensive examination of his life and work. The articles are arranged in roughly chronological order, but there is otherwise little integration among them—a characteristic only exacerbated by Blackett's wide-ranging interests and expertise. However, it is clear that an integrated whole was not the editor's goal. Instead, Hore's intent was to augment the inadequate body of literature on Blackett by encouraging new research on him and publishing the results.

After an opening overview of Blackett's youth, compiled from Blackett's own autobiographical notes, the book covers his education in the Royal Navy's preparatory school system, his service as a naval officer during World War I, and his post-secondary and graduate education in physics at Cambridge University under the tutelage of Sir Ernest Rutherford. After a summary of Blackett's contribution to Britain's war preparation efforts during the 1930s, several chapters are devoted to his wartime work on defense science, technology, and policy. This material addresses his widely acknowledged leadership in the field of operational research and the ways in which that research contributed to high-level disputes over convoying strategy and strategic-bombing policy.

The final chapters examine the postwar public controversy sparked by Blackett's vocal opposition to nuclear weapons, his long association with Indian political leaders and scientists, a summary of his Nobel-winning career as a physicist, and his role in the first administration of England's prime minister Harold Wilson during the late 1960s.

Hore accomplishes his goal of facilitating and gathering new research on Blackett. Rather than introduce brazen, new concepts, the book's primary contribution to academic research will be as a resource for those endeavoring to examine elements of Blackett's life in the larger context. This is for the most part a function of the biographical nature of this work, the very practical personality of the subject, and the large number of contributors, each with a particular perspective. Several of the authors, however, have focused too intently on specific, detailed narratives, passing up the larger questions. In some cases the focus is so narrow that the book's main subject—Blackett—is conspicuous by his absence. In fact, arguably, this is the general weakness of the book; there is so much emphasis on Blackett's work that little attention is paid to Blackett himself.

The two chapters on operational research are useful examples. Jock Gardner's brief contribution, "Blackett and the Black Arts," analyzes wartime reports from the British signals intelligence and operational research departments to determine the extent that the two groups issued reports based on one another's data. The chapter by Richard Ormerod is an institutional history of operational research as a field of study, focusing on the vagaries of the field's attempts to define itself. Blackett himself is rarely

mentioned in these chapters. Given Blackett's central role in the history of operational research, this would have been the perfect opportunity to learn more about his contributions and to understand the influence of operational research during and after World War II. Fortunately, several of the contributors chose broader topics. For example, Peter Hore's own chapter offers a thoughtful look at Blackett's experiences as a sailor during World War I, using a variety of sources to place that story within the wider circumstances of the war and to consider how Blackett weathered the ordeal. Mary Jo Nye's contribution, "A Physicist in the Corridors of Power," must also be singled out for praise. Following Blackett throughout his entire career, Nye describes the ebb and flow of Blackett's influence on both national policy and science, demonstrating how Blackett's career expressed his character and political beliefs. It is contributions like these that make this work a valuable and enjoyable book.

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Sondhaus, Lawrence. *Navies of Europe*. London: Longman, 2002. 256pp. \$26.95
O'Brien, Phillips Payson. *Technology and Naval Combat in the Twentieth Century and Beyond*. Portland, Ore.: Frank Cass, 2001. 360pp. \$63

Since the onset of the industrial revolution, navies have continuously struggled with the challenges posed by technological change. In *Navies of Europe*, Lawrence Sondhaus examines this problem from a European perspective. Sondhaus chronicles the fortunes of