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Preparing for the Twenty-first Century

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often dark and painful secrets are now being revealed.

Despite its strengths, this work is not without flaws. Its prose and organization are uneven, although whether the fault lies with the author or editor-translator is unclear. Volkogonov also seems uncertain about just where to place responsibility for the Soviet tragedy. Was everything solely Stalin's fault? Or were the problems, in part at least, attributable to the system he inherited from Lenin? Volkogonov appears to be a man going through a personal and extremely painful catharsis as he calls into question the legitimacy of the very system he served for most of his adult life.

Volkogonov's *Stalin: Triumph and Tragedy* is an extremely poignant and important work. Anyone with an interest in the history of Russia, the Second World War, the early Cold War period, the twentieth century, or the story of human progress (and regression) will find this biography engrossing.

MICHAEL A. PALMER
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Kennedy, Paul. *Preparing for the Twenty-first Century*. New York: Random House, 1992. 428pp. \$25

Students of strategy will view the publication of Paul Kennedy's book with great anticipation. After all, his previous book, *The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers*, turned out to be of interest to many more than scholars;

selling nearly a quarter of a million copies, it had a profound impact on the view Americans hold of the world around us. *Rise and Fall* looked at the grand sweep of history and the forces which cause nations to gain and lose strength, and it triggered widespread debate on whether or not the United States had reached its apogee and was following earlier powers into the second rank of nations.

Preparing for the Twenty-first Century picks up some of those same themes of growth and decline but goes beyond the constraints of the previous book to look at the forces at work both beyond and within national boundaries, and even forces mutating those boundaries. Readers who enjoyed the parts of *Rise and Fall* where the author speculated on present and future trends will be especially pleased with this text, which does quite a bit of sketching of directions that the future might take. Kennedy, as should not surprise those who see him as a "don" of the "declinist school," is rather gloomy about our prospects. In his prologue he evokes Thomas Malthus, the dour British economist of the eighteenth century, in a discussion of the perils of increasing population. However, while glum, Kennedy does not give in to defeatism, nor does he portray the problems he outlines as immutable. Instead he refers to them as challenges, which he encourages leaders of the world to face.

The bulk of the work is divided into two major parts. The first, "General Trends," looks at forces currently

reshaping the world community: the world's ever-burgeoning human population and the strain it causes; the communications and financial innovations that are creating a "borderless world"; agriculture and biotechnology and their promises for the future; robotics and automation and their impact on industry; threats to the environment; and finally political trends affecting nation-states and their place in global society. The one surprising omission in this section is the lack of discussion on energy and natural resources. The second part, "Regional Impacts," looks at the different regions of the world and how each of the trends previously discussed will affect them. Kennedy sees Japan and Europe as perhaps the most successful in meeting the challenges of the future, with the former Soviet Union and the developing world least successful and the United States muddling along somewhere in between. Kennedy's major theme in the regional section, however, is that no nation or area of the globe is immune to the broad issues such as population, productivity, and environmental concerns that affect us all, regardless of our locations.

In his conclusion, Kennedy summarizes the challenges which face our leaders and chides them for attempting to explain issues away rather than solve them. He briefly discusses areas where solutions can be found: in collective action, in changing the role of women in societies, and political leadership. Kennedy ends with a somber

warning that if the challenges he describes are not dealt with, we will bear the responsibility for the resulting problems.

There has been much talk in recent years about taking broader views of what national security entails and about looking beyond the traditional litany of military and strategic threats. Those who wonder what new threats might fall under that broader umbrella of national security will find this book an excellent primer.

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Gallie, W.B. *Points of Conflict: Understanding War*. New York: Routledge, 1991. 116pp. \$14.95

Newell, Clayton R. *The Framework of Operational Warfare*. New York: Routledge, 1991. 186pp. \$30

The first title under review defies simple categorization. It is at once a work of political and military philosophy, and a tract for dealing with the problems of nuclear deterrence in the post-Cold War world. It would be more appropriately titled "Understanding Deterrence." Its author is a professor emeritus of political science at the Cambridge University. However, American readers must not confuse this title with their own vision of a political scientist; Gallie is much more a political philosopher. He was president of the Aristotelian Society in Great Britain in the early 1970s, and before taking his chair at Cambridge