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## Recent Books

Frank Uhlig Jr.

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## Recent Books

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Challiand, Gerard and Rageau, Jean-Pierre. *Strategic Atlas: A Comparative Geopolitics of the World's Powers*. 3rd ed. Trans. Tony Berrett. New York: Harper Collins, 1993. 327pp. \$18

Have this atlas near to hand when reading or re-reading Guy Labou erie's essay in this issue of the *Naval War College Review*—the two have more in common than their original French language. Both, for instance, begin by looking at the world from an unaccustomed but fruitful vantage point, down from the North Pole. Challiand and Rageau's atlas (originally published in France in 1983) is not the kind in which one looks up the location of, say, Mullaitivu (Sri Lanka) or the Mullaghareirk Mountains (of Ireland); but one can find both North and South Ossetia, the distribution in the Middle East of eight different Muslim sects, and the extent of the Chinese diaspora in Southeast Asia. Its mapmakers take pains to show the world as perceived by regional powers and as organized and constrained by, especially, the oceans and other natural factors. Much of the data is selected for military and security relevance, and the book will make a useful reference for strategic planners, analysts, and war gamers. Chronologies, population and economic tabulations, introductory essay.

Sharpe, Richard, ed. *Jane's Fighting Ships 1992–1993*. Alexandria, Va.: Jane's Information Group, 1992. 848pp. \$225

In assembling this year's (ninety-fifth) edition of this naval "bible," flagship of its publisher's prestigious collection of national-security references, Captain Sharpe faced a problem worse than that of modern cartographers—not only what to call the new and old nations, but which of them can be said to have navies. The most conspicuous of the resulting changes is that to look up Deltas and Krivaks one no longer flips to the *U*'s, just before "United States of America," but to the *R*'s, for "Russia and Associated States." (It was too early to "give" Ukraine and the Baltic States their own navies, and the Commonwealth of Independent States, nominal inheritor of the old Soviet fleet, did not look to the editor like having "the stamina to survive for the long haul.") "Yugoslavia" became "Yugoslavia and Croatia." By and large, the book remains familiar to long-time users, who will find this year: a full-color set of ensigns and flags of world navies; listings for the Japanese *Kongo* class of Aegis destroyers and for the Russian *Udaloy II* and *Neustrashimyi* (Krivak follow-on) classes; a handier section on U.S. naval air than in the past; over 1,200 new photos and drawings; and, for most navies, many fewer ships than there used to be. Also, the editor has wise words to say about the collision between the imperatives of our new world with some inconvenient but eternal verities. (Available on CD-Rom.)

Polmar, Norman. *The Naval Institute Guide to the Ships and Aircraft of the U.S. Fleet*. 15th ed. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute, 1993. 639pp. \$56.95

In years to come the 1993 edition of this well established—but now retitled—series begun by James C. Fahey in 1939 as a fifty-cent paperback will probably seem especially significant, as one in which both the U.S. Navy's gains of the Cold War years and the losses of its aftermath are evident. The fifteenth edition is likely to be a template for the next several, each successively reflecting fewer gains and more losses. One "gain" with respect to the book itself is the largest-ever number of photographs and drawings (over 950). There is, as always, a great deal of information on principal classes of warships (through *Arleigh Burke* Flight IIA), naval aviation, and weapon systems. In addition, and very usefully, there is also extensive data for less glamorous and less well known vessels—a new chapter devoted to sea-lift shipping, for instance, as well as Coast Guard, Army, Air Force, and Coast and Geodetic Survey vessels. Extensive organizational tables round out a reference that is both authoritative and handy.

Jordan, John. *Soviet Warships: 1945 to the Present*. London: Arms and Armour Press, 1992. 224pp. (No price given)

An obvious problem here is in the title: when was "the Present"? The preface is dated January 1992, but it speaks of the Soviet Union in the present tense; clearly, it was written before 31 December 1992—for all one can tell, even before the August coup attempt. Many of the powerful, modern warships described herein are now moored, silent and useless, slipping into premature decrepitude. This book is a "revised and expanded edition" of the well known original publication of 1983; was it too long delayed? Yes, for its own purposes: to be a resource for analysts, strategists, officers, and historians on (in the words of the dust jacket) "a major modern naval force." But it does have value, and not only because one might yet see this fleet at sea in force again. The book is a detailed, highly informative, and fascinating portrait of the principal surface combatants (frigates and larger) of the Soviet navy at its height; it has the same poignance as a 1914 portrait of the Romanovs. Its information is recent enough to encompass the *Krivak III* and *Neustrashimyi* frigates and the new carriers' newest names; in the Gorbachev era, the unclassified sources to which the work was limited had become much more dependable than previously. Finally, as the author observes, the work was perhaps the last of its type to have the advantage of the exposure offered by distant Soviet naval deployments, the "golden age" of Soviet warship photography.

Tashjean, John E. *Past in Review, 1941–1991*. Lanham, Md.: Univ. Press of America, 1992. 136pp. \$19.75

"We have here," observes the author in his preface, "a travelogue of sorts." Or, perhaps, a "good-parts" memoir, or a geopolitical (geospiritual?) reminiscence.

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The framework of this small book is John Tashjean's "travel" from childhood in Vienna and Peking, to college in Minnesota, to law school (briefly), to the Air Force, to a doctorate in political science, and then to a lifetime in academe and "think tanks" culminating (to date) in the presidency of Conflict Morphology, Inc. The story, however, is less important, even to the author, than the tangents—essays on people and subjects he touched upon in one way or another in his career. Recurring themes include Catholic thought (specifically that of St. Thomas Aquinas) and its ultimate collision in Tashjean's life with law school; Clausewitz; Mackinder's geopolitics; and the devolution of American political culture into "legalistic individualism." Two essays (one by Herbert Rosinski) reprinted here for the first time make this book of particular interest to service colleges: Tashjean found Rosinski's study (c. 1953) on Yosuke Matsuoka, Japan's foreign minister in 1940–41, in the Naval War College Historical Collection, and produced the highly original "American Generalship" in 1986 apparently for (and at least with the assistance of) the Army War College.

Bleakley, Jack. *The Eavesdroppers*. Canberra: Australian Government Publishing Service, 1991. 261pp. \$12.95

During World War II in the Pacific, "signals intelligence provided the Allies with information of almost every Japanese move including the dates and locations of landings, troops to be used and details of the escorting forces," according to Air Marshall R.G. Funnell, chief of the Australian air staff, in his brief foreword to this book. As an instance, Air Marshall Funnell tells us that over a four-month period in mid-1943, signals intelligence "allowed the Allies to trace all movements of the Japanese Army Airforce from Japan and rear bases into the airfields of northern New Guinea. Full details of types, numbers and the airfields of destination were supplied. In a three-day period of raids by the U.S. Air Force, this large enemy force of nearly four-hundred planes was virtually annihilated without having been used." The author assesses that "central to this was the contribution" of Royal Australian Air Force radio operators "whose main duty was the collection, in forward operational areas, of the material required for analysis and reporting by the signals intelligence organization."

The secrecy necessary for success in this endeavor was kept for many years afterwards. But now the story can be, and has been, told. The teller, Mr. Bleakley, was one of the eavesdroppers of whom he writes.

Warner, Philip. *Secret Forces of World War II*. Virginia: Scarborough House, 1991. 272pp. \$22.95

World War II generated an extraordinary number of odd and irregular small military units, all determined to influence the war. The reader can hardly keep them in order, which is not surprising, since neither could their commanders.

Nonetheless, these many secret units—"Popski's Private Army" will do nicely as the quintessential one—did have some value and an impact beyond generating plot kernels for postwar thriller writers. While Warner does not give us much perspective on the strategic value of these units, the tales he tells of them are rousing great fun.

Suchlicki, Jaime. *Cuba: From Columbus to Castro*. New York: Brassey's (US), 1990. 245pp. \$16.95

Brassey's continues to offer students, as well as players in the strategic military arena, much help with basic books such as this. It is a valuable and sound account of Cuba's historic evolution and a quick introduction for those who are venturing into this area perhaps for the first time. It is difficult to find useful historic surveys written in a succinct and lively style. Yet it is bedeviled, as are many such handy volumes in this time of both slow and go-go change, by a clearly dated quality that mars its closing chapter and a half. Even so, there is a fascination and personal wonder for any reader in noting the author's 1990 observations and then measuring them against the realities of the major changes that have occurred in the world since their publication three years ago. However, for contemporary happenings and trends that affect Cuba's destiny, readers will have to turn to present-day journals of political and economic commentary or, given the speed with which events happen at this interesting juncture in Cuba's history, perhaps even to CNN.

Commager, Henry Steele. *The Story of the Second World War*. McLean, Va.: Brassey's (US), 1991. 345pp. \$23.95

This book is a reprint of the 1945 edition of the renowned American historian's account of World War II. Henry Steele Commager has created a classic of war literature, now republished to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the war. Written at the end of the war, *The Story of the Second World War* does not claim to be the definitive history of World War II, nor is it particularly authoritative. Instead, Commager presents a running narrative of the war's events, woven tightly with a mesh of vignettes, anecdotes, and descriptions of the men and women who were there. Commager's style is fluid and clear, his sources are varied and not altogether objective. Remember, this book was written in 1945 and is certainly the product of victory euphoria. The personal episodes are poignant and riveting, sad and exhilarating, for Commager focuses on what he calls war as a "felt experience," highlighting the people in the events, not the events themselves.

Taylor, Telford. *The March of Conquest: German Victories in Western Europe, 1940*. Baltimore, Md.: The Nautical and Aviation Pub. Co. of America, 1991 (reprint). (No price given)

The author served as an army intelligence officer in World War II and as chief counsel for the prosecution at the Nuremberg war crimes trial. This readable

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book was first published in 1958 and takes the reader through the organization of the Wehrmacht of 1940, the Polish occupation, the conquest of Denmark and Norway, and the assault on and defeat of Holland, Belgium, and France. Taylor deals with the principles and interplay of politics and strategy from the high command down to the division level, and he discusses the German leaders who, while so skillful at operational art, failed in grand strategy. The reader is provided with ample maps, officer assignment lists for the army from the commander in charge to division level, and similar lists for the Luftwaffe and *Waffen-SS*. There are also organizational charts of the Wehrmacht high command and the three respective services, and charts of command organization and order of battle for the operations described.

Smith, Myron J., Jr. *American Warplanes 1908–1988: A Bibliography*. Westport, Conn.: Meckler, 1991. 500pp. \$65

Though originally produced by Meckler Publishing of London and Connecticut, this reference work has been purchased by the Greenwood imprint and has become number 3 in that house's (but originally Meckler's, it would seem) *Bibliographies of Battles and Leaders* series. The text is in typescript facsimile, though printed in hardback on acid-free paper. The author has not attempted to be all-encompassing but to achieve "literature control"—that is, apparently, "to permit users to quickly determine what kinds of materials are available on individual warplanes of interest and to help establish a basis for further research. . . ." The first of the three chapters provides data on, and assessments of, research resources: libraries, depositories, other bibliographies, book reviews, and standing sources such as annuals, encyclopedias, directories, and guides. Chapters II and III tabulate bibliographies for 525 fixed and rotary wing aircraft and "families" respectively, alphabetically by general type and by designator (e.g., AC-47 Shadow, B-2/R4-C Condor, and the H/EH/HH/SH/UH/VH/MH-60 Hawk). The Autogiro, both fish and fowl, is in Chapter III. Information received after the January 1989 cutoff is given in an appendix. Index.

Smith, Myron J., Jr., ed. *Pearl Harbor, 1941: A Bibliography*. New York: Greenwood, 1991. 224pp. \$55

This volume, fourth in the *Bibliographies of Battles and Leaders* series, is a book-length annotated bibliography intended as a research tool for scholars, journalists, librarians, etc. It contains some 1,500 entries in eleven languages from a wide variety of subjects and disciplines that are either specifically or generally concerned with Pearl Harbor. A chronology is provided, along with accessible author and name indexes. Best of all is the guide to reference sources, depositories, and sites. Each bibliographic entry provides a brief assessment of the scope and value of the item. The volume is durably produced, but the text itself (less chapter headings, folios, and end matter) is typescript in facsimile.

Myron Smith is library director and a professor of library science and history at Tusculum College, Greenville, Tennessee.

Smith, Myron J., Jr., ed. *The Battles of Coral Sea and Midway, 1942: A Selected Bibliography*. New York: Greenwood, 1991. 184pp. \$55

This volume, number 5 in Greenwood's Bibliographies of Battles and Leaders series, is a book-length "partially-annotated" bibliography intended as a research tool for scholars, journalists, librarians, etc. It lists some 1,300 items, in seven languages, derived from the mountainous literature on these battles. This volume cites, in most cases with brief descriptions and evaluations, works of general relevance (history, equipment, biography, combatants, and "special studies" on tactics and intelligence) and has separate listings for materials specifically related to each battle. It contains not only published works but also reports, theses, dissertations, and other unpublished studies and materials. Historical overviews and chronologies, author and name indexes, and—most helpfully of all—a guide to reference sources, depositories, and sites are provided. Myron Smith is library director and a professor of library science and history at Tusculum College, Greenville, Tennessee.

Rasor, Eugene L. *The Falklands/Malvinas Campaign: A Bibliography*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1991. 216pp. \$45

This reference work is the sixth in the Greenwood Press Bibliographies of Battles and Leaders series and is a survey of the 1982 Falklands-Malvinas War. It lists and discusses "all published books, monographs, oral histories, official histories and other governmental publications, dissertations, etc." on the subject, excluding periodicals. The first, and longer, part of the book is a series of bibliographical and historiographical essays on sources dealing with different aspects of the war: basic geographical and historical factors, politics, diplomacy, forces involved, operations, media, culture, "lessons learned," and research. The second part is a listing of all 554 sources (English, Spanish, German, and French) mentioned in the first section (cross-referenced by number). Appendices include a chronology of events and a list of important individuals. Annotations attempt "to evaluate quality and identify important contributions." Mr. Rasor is a professor of history at Emory and Henry College and is the author of several works, including other titles in this series. Index.

Rasor, Eugene L. *The Battle of Jutland: A Bibliography*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1991. 192pp. \$45

The seventh title in the Bibliographies of Battles and Leaders series (and one of several by Professor Rasor, of the Emory and Henry College history faculty), this reference work is a bibliographical and historiographical survey of the 1916 battle. An annotated listing of 528 sources (in several languages) occupies the

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shorter, and second, of the two parts; the bulk of the book is a narrative that “describes, evaluates, assesses, qualifies, and integrates” all of the entries into a whole. Beginning with a historical summary of the engagement, the narrative portion of the work has chapters on sources concerning the battle’s historical background, the combat itself in great detail, an assessment (strategic, statistical as to forces engaged, submarine and air dimensions, fleet dispositions), the “various accounts and the controversy,” and useful depositories and other resources. There is a glossary of “important persons” and an index. The book is intended for “students of naval warfare at all levels.”

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**Changes of address:** In order not to miss the next, or Winter 1994, issue of the Review, notify us by 30 September.





## Winners of the Hugh G. Nott Prize for 1992

The President of the Naval War College has announced the winners of prizes for the finest articles (less those on historical subjects) appearing in the *Naval War College Review* in 1992:

First Prize (\$500), Lieutenant Commander Jeffrey L. Canfield, USN, of the Office of Naval Intelligence Detachment Newport, R.I., for "The Independent Baltic States: Maritime Security Implications" (Autumn);

Second Prize (\$300), Dr. Thomas-Durell Young of the U.S. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute, for "Preparing the Western Alliance for the Next Out-of-Area Campaign" (Summer); and,

Third Prize (\$200), Major Richard D. Hooker, USA, and Captain Ricky L. Waddell, USA, of the U.S. Military Academy, for "The Future of Conventional Deterrence" (Summer).

This award is given in memory of the late Captain Hugh G. Nott, U.S. Navy, who made major contributions over a period of ten years to the professional life of the Naval War College.

## Winners of the First Edward S. Miller History Prize

Through the generosity of the distinguished historian Edward S. Miller, the President of the Naval War College has awarded prizes to authors of the finest articles on historical subjects appearing in the *Naval War College Review* in 1992.

The winner (\$700) is Professor Graham Rhys-Jones (formerly a Secretary of the Navy Fellow), of Dorset, U.K., for "The Loss of the *Bismarck*: Who Was to Blame?" (Winter).

The runner-up (\$300) is Professor Michael T. Corgan of the Naval War College, for "Franklin D. Roosevelt and the American Occupation of Iceland" (Autumn).

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These awards are made with the support of the Naval War College Foundation, a private non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of the educational resources of the Naval War College in areas where government funds are not available.