

1992

Recent Books

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Recommended Citation

Uhlig, Frank Jr. (1992) "Recent Books," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 45 : No. 2 , Article 36.
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol45/iss2/36>

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Recent Books

Brown, David. *Warship Losses of World War II*. New York: Sterling, 1990. 256pp. \$24.95

One of the things navies did in World War II was lose a lot of their ships. In this handy-sized compilation Mr. Brown tells us, first, day-by-day, what ships were sunk, whose ships they were, where they were sunk, and the agent of destruction. Among other things, Brown also provides convenient tables showing losses by ship type, area, cause of destruction, year, and so forth. For those who want to, or must, know such things, Brown has made the job easy.

Kelly, Orr. *Hornet: The Inside Story of the F/A-18*. Novato, Calif.: Presido, 1990. 231pp. \$18.95

Hornet is a fairly sophisticated if highly partisan account of the internal and external politics and technical challenge surrounding the development of the F/A-18 Hornet. This aircraft introduced the concept of the multimission strike fighter to the United States Navy and a host of technological innovations to the aviation community. Orr Kelly has captured the flavor of the ensuing controversies with a clear F/A-18 partisanship. Although the reader may disagree with the author's viewpoint, this book should be read carefully and thoughtfully by those who might wish to contemplate the recovery strategies demanded by the current state of naval aviation development.

Kiely, D.G. *Naval Electronic Warfare*. (Brassey's "Sea Power, Naval Vessels, Weapons Systems, and Technology Series" Volume V.) London: Brassey's Defense Pub., 1988. 118pp. \$17.95

The author has provided an in-depth description of the application of electronic warfare in the Royal Navy. Therein lies the problem: Kiely has failed to address adequately the operational differences among other navies and how their impact may affect the expected performance of the system. General principles are covered, but descriptions of specific systems often read like brochures or catalogs. No reference section or bibliography has been included. Considering the amount of published material available, this is a drastic oversight. The author has provided some novel approaches in his discussion about decoys, but this does not make up for the lack of information.

Kiely, D.G. *Naval Surface Weapons*. (Brassey's "Sea Power, Naval Vessels, Weapons Systems, and Technology Series" Volume VI.) London: Brassey's Defense Pub., 1988. 116pp. \$15.95

Kiely has provided a description of the offensive and defensive weapons systems for surface warships. He has given adequate coverage of the operational use and

the impact of technology on surface weapons, and the design and performance of a wide range of gun systems, anti-ship and anti-air missiles (area and point defense systems)—all of European origin. Systems developed in the Soviet Union and the United States are missing entirely. As in volume five of this series, the author has failed to provide a reference section or a bibliography, and his systems descriptions appear to have been extracted directly from the manufacturers' brochures, which seriously limits the value of this book.

Kitchen, Martin. *A World in Flames*. New York: Longman, 1990. 337pp. (No price available)

Fifty years after the event, a number of new books on the Second World War are appearing. Martin Kitchen's is among the most useful as an interpretation for those to whom the events are truly historical. Rather than a simple chronology, he has focused his work on a series of strategic issues: the Battle of Britain; the war at sea and in the air; the United States and the war; the Russian campaign; the war in Asia, etc. Each piece discusses the strategic decisions that underlay each campaign and the political context. Kitchen's work will be an admirable basic text for any course concerned with the strategy and policy of the Second World War.

Matthews, Lloyd J. and Brown, Dale E., eds. *The Challenge of Military Leadership*. New York: Pergamon Brassey, 1989. 167pp. \$14.95

This anthology was drawn from the Army War College's professional journal, *Parameters*. The contributors include middle-ranking officers, historians, and senior combat leaders who provide a comprehensive menu of the subject. Dealing with the fundamentals, leadership at all levels, case studies, ethics and the "larger vision," this is a full plate for the practitioner from squad to army level.

Moro, Ruben O. *The History of the South Atlantic Conflict: The War for the Malvinas*. Translated by Michael Valeur. New York: Praeger, 1989. 360pp. \$49.95

This account of the Falkland Islands war fought in 1982 is told from the Argentine viewpoint or, more specifically, that of the Argentine Air Force. Moro, a commodore in that air force, has had a wide range of experience, and took part in the war as a member of Argentina's only squadron of C-130 transports. Though much of what he says is old news to those interested in the sub-Antarctic struggle, his discussion of the Argentine sea lift and air lift will be new to nearly everyone. Written in Spanish, the book was translated into English by Michael Valeur of the Inter-American Defense Board in Washington.

Polmar, Norman and Laur, Timothy. *Strategic Air Command: People, Aircraft and Missiles*. Baltimore, Md.: Nautical & Aviation Pub., 1990. 326pp. (No price available)

With the apparent passing of the harsher aspects of the Cold War and the growth of nuclear arms control, the history of the Strategic Air Command will be important to historians. Unfortunately, this book can serve only as a superficial chronology, for it lacks any interpretation of why particular strategies and weapons were chosen and why others were not acquired. It is simply a set of chapters, each prepared according to format for each year from 1940 to 1990: interesting bits, but hardly the stuff of good history.

Rizopoulos, Nicholas X., ed. *Sea Changes: American Foreign Policy in a World Transformed*. New York: Council on Foreign Relations Press, 1990. 304pp. \$14.95

Periodically the Council on Foreign Relations identifies a topic of surprising importance for America and commissions a book that will bring it to the attention of the general public. The end of the Cold War and the events of 1989 so dramatically altered the future that the Council asked twelve noted unconventional thinkers to provide essays on the meaning of the unexpected and radical changes for American foreign policy. The result is a provocative analysis that examines the significance of these changes: the erosion of strategic bipolarity; the retreat of authoritarian rule; the emergence of a global economy; and the growing interconnection between debt and development problems in the Third World. For those attempting to make some sense of the events of 1989, this book is an excellent place to start.

Szulc, Tad. *Then and Now: How the World Has Changed since WW II*. New York: Quill & Morrow, 1990. 515pp. \$22.95

Someone once said that journalism is the first draft of history. Tad Szulc has been doing first drafts since the Second World War. When that war ended, a new era was thought to be ushered in with the formation of the United Nations dominated by the Big Five. The rise of communism as a world influence altered that vision of world order. Szulc's first draft, decade by decade, of that tumultuous history has an immediacy often lacking in histories covering four decades. Now that the competition between the West and the communist world has passed, the world has also changed. Szulc does a nice job of tying it all together.

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ANNUAL STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

Statement of ownership, management, and circulation (required by 39 U.S.C. 3685) of the *Naval War College Review*, Publication Number 401390, published four times a year at 686 Cushing Road, Newport, R.I. 02841-5010, for 31 October 1991. General business offices of the publisher are located at the Naval War College, 686 Cushing Road, Newport, R.I. 02841-5010. Name and address of publisher is President, Naval War College, Newport, R.I. 02841-5010. Name and address of editor is Frank Uhlig, Jr., Naval War College (Code 32), Newport, R.I. 02841-5010. Name and address of managing editor is Lt. Cdr. Pelham G. Boyer, U.S. Navy, Naval War College (Code 32A), Newport, R.I. 02841-5010. Owner is the Secretary of the Navy, Navy Department, Washington, D.C. 20350-1000. Average number of copies of each issue during the preceding 12 months is: (A) Total number of copies printed: 14,340; (B) Requested circulation, mail subscription: 8,652; (C) Total requested circulation: 8,652; (D) Free distribution by mail, carrier or other means: 5,363; (E) Total distribution: 14,015; (F) Copies not distributed (office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing): 325; (G) Total: 14,340. The actual number of copies of single issue published nearest to filing date is: (A) Total number of copies printed: 14,465; (B) Requested circulation, mail subscription: 9,681; (C) Total requested circulation: 9,681; (D) Free distribution by mail, carrier or other means: 4,484; (E) Total distribution: 14,165; (F) Copies not distributed (office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing): 300; (G) Total: 14,465. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete.

(signed) Pelham G. Boyer, Managing Editor