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## The South Pacific: Political, Economic and Military Trends

Thomas-Durell Young

Henry S. Albinski

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Zealand's effective withdrawal from Anzus, as well as the impact of the RAN's development on the Canadian navy's inception, plus the British and Australian conflict over conduct of the war with Japan.

The chapters by James Goldrick and James A. Boutilier provide the reader with a useful background for the debate over the Australian navy's intention to procure a helicopter-carrying support ship. Goldrick discusses how the RAN inherited its aircraft carriers from the Royal Navy, and Boutilier compares the decisions made by Canada and Australia to abandon their aircraft carriers.

Australia is a proud country that Americans all too often take for granted, but that is likely to become more important in the U.S. strategic plan for Asia. Therefore, military and other professionals who seek to better understand Australia's navy are well advised to read *Reflections on the Royal Australian Navy*.

RICHARD D. FISHER, JR.  
The Heritage Foundation  
Washington, D.C.

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Albinski, Henry S. et al. *The South Pacific: Political, Economic and Military Trends*. Washington, D.C.: Brassey's (US), 1990. 100pp. \$9.95  
The Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis, the Pacific Forum, and the Center for Strategic and International Studies have published a compendium of papers from five respected authors on a region of the world

which, until the mid-1980s, escaped the attention of most officials and security analysts. During the latter 1980s, however, the enactment by the New Zealand Labour government of its antinuclear policies and the subsequent demise of the Anzus alliance (in a tripartite sense), the two 1987 Fijian coups, and continued domestic unrest in New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea, combined with other issues, convinced the Western powers that the once politically sleepy South Pacific had the strong potential of becoming a security nightmare if previous policies and approaches to the region were not changed.

The particular value of this collection is that it addresses most security and diplomatic aspects regarding contemporary affairs in the South Pacific. Henry Albinski opens the work by providing a broad overview with emphasis on past and present U.S. policy toward the region. Robert Kiste and Richard Herr analyze the South Pacific island micro-states, considering them as regional actors, and also assess the region's numerous multi-lateral organizations. Ross Babbage provides an excellent description of how the region's key power, Australia, views this vast area of thirty million square kilometers of ocean, interspersed with occasional under-developed island micro-states that have a combined population of only approximately five million. Finally, Denis McLean (previously the permanent secretary of the New Zealand ministry of defence) writes of New Zealand's policies and

aspirations in the region, with particular emphasis on critiquing the antinuclear policies of the country's fourth Labour government.

The only complaint this reviewer has regarding this work is that it gives short shrift to the policies of France. France maintains possession of French Polynesia, New Caledonia, and the Wallis and Futuna islands, in addition to continuing to test nuclear devices in French Polynesia. Nuclear testing, the residual French territorial presence, and, until recently, uncharacteristically poor French diplomatic style, have made France very unpopular in the South Pacific. While almost all of the authors in this work deal with France's continued presence in and policies toward the region, there is no single comprehensive assessment of France in the South Pacific. Given the accommodating regional policy adopted by French prime minister Michel Rocard, an assessment of the chances that Paris can succeed in changing its heretofore badly tarnished image in the South Pacific would have been welcomed.

Fortunately, the publishers of this work state in the introduction that a second volume of essays is to appear in the future, which I hope will include essays on France and other important subjects. If the quality of the essays in the second volume equals those in this one, the two volumes together will surely constitute a major contribution to the understanding of this little-known but increasingly important region.

THOMAS-DURELL YOUNG  
U.S. Army War College  
Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania

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Kinnard, Douglas. *The Certain Trumpet: Maxwell Taylor & the American Experience in Vietnam*. Washington, D.C.: Brassey's (US), 1991. 252pp. \$22.95

Douglas Kinnard, author of this truncated biography of the late General Maxwell Taylor, is a retired army brigadier who has in subsequent years made a distinguished second career as an academician at the University of Vermont and elsewhere. He now teaches at the National Defense University. Kinnard is the author of four previous books, including a study of President Eisenhower's management of strategy and, most notably, of a courageous and insightful analysis of Vietnam war policy based on a survey of army general officers who commanded there. That work, entitled *The War Managers*, which has just been republished in a Da Capo paperback edition, is required reading for anyone interested in professionalism and institutional ethics.

In *The Certain Trumpet* Kinnard concentrates on Maxwell Taylor's involvement in and impact on Vietnam-era policies, but precedes that analysis with enough material on Taylor's earlier life and career to demonstrate a continuum of behavior and values. This is important because in the portrait that emerges Taylor is seen as much less effective, less admirable, and less deserving of the high