

1992

Commercial Observation Satellites and International Security

Dale K. Pace

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review>

Recommended Citation

Pace, Dale K. (1992) "Commercial Observation Satellites and International Security," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 45 : No. 1 , Article 34.

Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol45/iss1/34>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Naval War College Review by an authorized editor of U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu.

convincing argument. In the process, Vertzberger has provided a road map for anyone seriously interested in understanding the inner workings of the U.S. or Israeli government, each during their most celebrated crises.

This is not a book for a quiet night by the fire, nor is it one that would interest the casual reader. *The World in Their Minds* is an important work that is intended for serious students of foreign policy and the individuals they serve. Although many readers may find the social science vocabulary cumbersome, the message of the book is clear and important. Those who make the decisions of government need clearly evaluated information. Those who provide that information should take the time to read this book.

WILLIAM F. HICKMAN
Captain, U.S. Navy

Krepon, Michael et al. *Commercial Observation Satellites and International Security*. New York: St. Martin's, 1990. 230pp. \$45

Since the February 1986 launch of SPOT I by a multinational enterprise, high-quality images from space have been available to essentially anyone able to afford them. The Soviet Union has also entered the commercial satellite imagery field by offering to sell film imagery with five-meter maximum resolution, which is adequate to detect and identify urban areas, ships, many airfield facilities, bridges, and roads. Over the next decade, such imagery may

also be available from Japan, Brazil, Germany, China, Canada, and India. Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Libya, South Africa, South Korea, and Taiwan are already using information from commercial satellites for military purposes.

This book was a project of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The roles and implications of high-quality imagery available to any nation for purposes of international politics, international conflicts, and international cooperation are discussed knowledgeably and with penetrating insight. A number of changes will result for both the planning and conduct of cross-border incidents among Third World nations as space-based imagery becomes more readily accessible. The two dozen contributors to this book are prominent experts and have presented a well-balanced view of the technical and political-military issues. The role of the media as well as government and commercial uses of space imagery are addressed. The difficult art of photo-interpretation of commercial observation satellite imagery and the problem of training skilled interpreters are also discussed.

Many within the defense community may not be aware of the impact that commercial observation-satellite imagery will have on future security activities. This book will be a most valuable resource for them.

DALE K. PACE
The Johns Hopkins University
