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## Secret Servant

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## 162 Naval War College Review

Dzhirkvelov, Ilya. *Secret Servant: My Life with the KGB & the Soviet Elite*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1987. 398pp. \$10.95

Starting out as a Communist Youth League member in 1941, the author was trained in reconnaissance and functioned as a member of the state security service during the latter part of World War II. He participated in a special commando unit operating against the Germans in the Crimea, and was a security guard during the Yalta conference in 1945. After the war, he joined the KGB, and embarked on a career in intelligence that waxed and waned with the changes that swept the Soviet bureaucracy during the reigns of Stalin, Khrushchev, and Brezhnev.

With KGB support he entered journalism in the early 1960s, first as an official in the Soviet Union of Journalists, with a responsibility for orchestrating visits by foreign journalists to the USSR, and later as a correspondent with the official Soviet news agency, TASS, in Ghana and the Sudan. He capped his career in the mid-1970s with a tour as a United Nation's civil servant with the World Health Organization in Geneva. Dispassionately he describes his KGB functions during all his tours, ranging from the introduction of Soviet disinformation into the foreign press to the entrapment and recruitment of foreign journalists to become Soviet spies and "agents of influence." Along the way, he provides interesting and insightful descriptions of the personalities of

his Soviet superiors and coworkers. Forced to leave the Soviet Union in 1980, Dzhirkvelov considers himself a reluctant defector, who had served the USSR well over the 37 year career that he describes in this book.

Those interested in understanding the milieu of the professional intelligence officer in the Soviet Union will find much in this book to be of interest.

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Friedman, Norman. *The Naval Institute Guide to World Naval Weapons Systems*. Annapolis, Md.: United States Naval Institute, 1989. 511pp. \$89.95

The fact that Jane's, the General Motors of Defense Publishing, is facing potent competition from a scrappy Toyota, (the United States Naval Institute) is made increasingly evident with the publication of *The Naval Institute Guide to World Naval Weapons Systems*. The first indication of this trend came in 1976 when the Naval Institute produced *Combat Fleets of the World*, a reference source that has established itself in many quarters as an equal, albeit less costly alternative, to *Jane's Fighting Ships*. Now the Naval Institute has added a second product challenging Jane's once undisputed mastery in the field of naval reference books.

With *World Naval Weapons Systems*, Norman Friedman has produced a reference volume that