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The Naval Institute Guide to World Naval Weapons Systems

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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

comprehensively describes the entire spectrum of naval weapons and their associated sensor/control systems. As would be expected, the work is amply illustrated with over 700 photographs and line drawings. Subject matter is grouped into the following sections: Surveillance and Control; Strategic Strike; Strike/Surface Warfare; Anti-Air Warfare; Anti-Submarine Warfare; and Mine Warfare Systems. In some cases categories of weapons which have dual purposes are arbitrarily assigned to a section. For example, shipboard gun and gun systems are in the Anti-Air Warfare section. While most of the entries are appropriate, the 16-inch guns of the *Iowa* class clearly are not. Overall however, the grouping is logical and data is easy to find.

Each of the sections is preceded by a brief introduction, providing general information on that subject area. In the ASW section for example, nine pages progress from such basics as the propagation of acoustic energy in water, to illustrations of advanced tactical displays.

Following the introduction is the meat of the book; data on all currently operational, as well as planned, equipment (sensors, weapons, fire control, decoys, display consoles, etc.) in that warfare category. Technical characteristics of equipment is uniformly comprehensive and detailed. Major systems are usually accompanied by a photograph and upwards of a full page of text. Equally impressive is the scope of material presented. Virtually all applicable equipment is covered.

Even relatively minor items are described, such as the coastal defense guns produced by Finland, Sweden, West Germany, the USSR, and the United Kingdom, as long ago as 1915 that are still in use. Although, as would be expected, there is far more information on US/NATO systems than Soviet/Warsaw Pact systems. The data provided is surprisingly complete.

The standard against which *World Naval Weapons Systems* will be compared is *Jane's Weapons Systems*. As the title indicates, Mr. Friedman's book deals only with weapons systems which are located on ships or designed to operate in the maritime arena. Until this year, *Jane's Weapons Systems* covered a far wider spectrum: air, ground, sea, and strategic weapons systems. Interestingly, *World Naval Weapons Systems* appears, just as *Jane's* is separating the former *Weapons Systems* into eight separate volumes which range in price from \$120 to \$350. These new *Jane's* include: *Naval Weapons Systems*, *Underwater Weapons Systems*, *Land Based Air Defense*, *Battlefield Surveillance*, *C³I Systems*, *Radar and Electronic Warfare*, *Air Launched Weapons*, and *Strategic Weapons Systems*.

As a result, to find the data on the naval related systems covered in Mr. Friedman's work (and the former *Jane's Weapons Systems*), a user today must have six of the *Jane's* volumes to acquire data which once cost \$170. A user must now pay approximately \$1420.

While the quality of *Jane's* publications is still there, the value is not.

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Mr. Friedman's *World Naval Weapons Systems*, in contrast, at \$89.95 deliv-

ers the same information and is a far better value.

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Recent Books

Cogar, William B. *New Interpretations in Naval History: Selected Papers from the Eighth Naval History Symposium*. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1989. 328 pp. \$24.95

This latest volume in the series from the biannual naval history symposium at the U.S. Naval Academy contains 20 essays selected from those delivered at the 1987 meeting. Like the conferences themselves, this volume ranges widely in subject, period and quality. However, as the publisher claims, it does reflect some of the current vitality in the field on naval history.

There is no common theme in the book, but the editor has deftly organized it into five topics: Creating and maintaining a navy; Successful combined operations, c. 1809-1814; Peacetime controversy and crisis; The Pearl Harbor attack, 1941; and The Tonkin Gulf Incident of 1964.

Although the bulk of essays deal with U.S. Naval history, there is one paper on Gibraltar as an ancient port, one on Russia, and five on the Royal Navy. This volume, taken as part of the continuing series of which it is a part, makes a major contribution to naval history. In its turn, each volume is a biannual journal compiling a range of insights from the most recent research.

Colledge, J.J. *Ships of the Royal Navy: Volume 1: The Complete Record of all Fighting Ships of the Royal Navy From The 15th Century to the Present*. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1988. 388 pp. \$37.95

Colledge, J.J. *Ships of the Royal Navy: Volume 2: Navy Built Trawlers, Drifters, Tugs and Requisitioned Ships from the 15th Century to the Present*. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1989. 245 pp. \$32.95

When James Colledge first published these two volumes twenty years ago, they made a valuable contribution to research in naval history, providing in a single source, a standard alphabetical listing of ships' names, dates, measurements and armaments.