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The Indian Ocean: Explorations in History, Commerce & Politics

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without war in 1971 when the task force 74 headed by the nuclear powered carrier USS *Enterprise* tried to intervene—though it proved to be too late—in the last stages of the war in Bangladesh.” India believes that the newly acquired SSN will “provide some minimal deterrence against such interventionism.”

One essay focuses on the U.S. military involvement in the 1980–88 Gulf War and another looks at the Australian role. While this is the most dated section of the work, there are many points of value in it. As one paper notes, “The U.S. interventionist strategy for the Gulf region has some serious limitations. On paper, plans and numbers look pretty promising but under the impact of a real conflict situation in a distant area they may not work.” As the United States knows full well, the difficulties of mounting any U.S. military activity in the Indian Ocean region cannot be understated. While in 1987–88 the U.S. Navy, with support from the other services, was able to escort merchant ships in the Persian Gulf, this was a difficult mission which required the commitment of a large number of ships.

Though the dramatic changes over the past several years have dated this volume, the work will remain of value for those interested in the Indian Ocean region.

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Chandra, Satish, ed. *The Indian Ocean: Explorations in History, Commerce & Politics*. New Delhi: Sage Publications, 1987. 334pp.

This erratic combination of historical essays, technological evaluation and polemics is exceedingly difficult to evaluate. The theme of exploration, commerce and politics in the Indian Ocean region serves as only a tenuous connexion among the various articles. Consequently, either the editor, perhaps finding himself unclear as to the articles' individual accuracy, gave up the attempt to keep the authors' speculation within the theme, or he may simply have failed to meet the most basic requirements of editorship.

If this collection has anything to offer, it is in reminding us that the Indian Ocean is an important area for historical investigation, particularly when it comes to elements of cross-cultural and economic exchange between the area and Europe. S. Bhattacharya in “The Indian Ocean in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries,” attempts to bring some analysis to the various exchange mechanisms operating during those times; F.J.A. Broeze, K.I. McPherson, and P.D. Reeves, in “The Making of the Modern Indian Ocean Ports,” gives us vast technological knowledge of how ports were developed and what factors influenced that development; Immanuel Wallerstein observes the economic impact of West on East.

If the reiteration of these various, often familiar themes were all there was to this collection, it would have

some use, if only as an introductory survey text. However, even that level of use is eliminated by the editor's inclusion of G. Bondarevsky's "Turning the Persian Gulf into a British Lake," which is riddled with factual errors. We are either looking at a stupendously unsuccessful mistranslation, or a work which takes absolutely no account of historical integrity, or a relatively crude attempt at polemical revisionism. The reader will have to judge which is the likeliest.

All these problems come under the category of editorial responsibility. The number of typographical errors, factual misconceptions, even the inoffensive dullness of some of the essays, leads to the belief that the editor has ignored the obligations of his position. It is impossible to determine which of the possibilities raised above have made the articles so opaque. But given the problems, the general reader is well advised to turn elsewhere for more reliable treatments of the same material.

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Greene, Fred, ed. *The Philippine Bases: Negotiating for the Future*. New York: Council on Foreign Relations, 1988. 158pp. \$9.95

This volume provides a useful, general guide to one of the most important foreign policy challenges facing the Bush administration. American military bases in the Philippines have long been a target

of nationalist attack and a major irritant in the U.S.-Philippine relationship. Even before the intervention of U.S. forces on behalf of Mrs. Aquino in 1989, the renegotiation promised to be arduous and contentious. At risk are the largest U.S. bases on foreign soil, that for decades have played a central role in U.S. global and regional defense strategy. For the Philippines there are major questions of economics and of principle.

In an overview paper, Fred Greene examines the specific issues likely to arise between the United States and the Philippines in the current round of negotiations, among them differences over compensation, operational control, nuclear weapons, and social problems. Greene points out that questions of sovereignty and national dignity permeate many of these issues and add to the difficulty of resolving them.

The book also contains short versions of earlier works by two other acknowledged experts on the Philippine bases issue, U.S. Air Force Colonel William E. Berry, Jr. and Captain Alva S. Bowen, USN (Ret.). Colonel Berry reviews the virtually unceasing base negotiations between the United States and the Philippines since 1947, and concludes that the issues that have shaped these negotiations have changed little over the years. Bowen, recognizing that the current round of base negotiations may not result in agreement, explores several fallback options for the bases: 1) relocation of other U.S.