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Semper Fidel: America & Cuba, 1776-1988

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Fortunately, *Power Pack* suggests some lessons that should be taken to heart. One, the intrusion of politicians into *operational* matters is certain to be an invitation to disaster, just as the intrusion of the military into political questions (e.g., should an intervention occur at all) might be equally counterproductive. Second is that tactical commanders need to have the latitude to exercise that initiative in practice that is encouraged in field manuals and constrained in actual operations. One of the problems with "leading from the rear" is that commanders (in or out of uniform) lose the essential urgency of decision fueled by the urge to survive. Third is that the principles of economy of force and unity of command mandate giving complete operational control of any intervention to a single, unified command and to using ground forces from a single service in the intervention. Putting both Marine and Army formations on the ground for the sake of interservice harmony is not at all wise in such limited interventions, as both the Dominican Republic and Grenada demonstrated so aptly.

It would be reassuring to believe that these and similar lessons derived from *Power Pack* would be acted on in practice. Regrettably, there is little chance of that, barring an attitudinal revolution of sorts in the Pentagon. Nonetheless, Yates has given us a sound, thoughtful, well-researched, well-written and judiciously argued piece of scholar-

ship. I would have liked to have seen a "lesson learned" section developed at length, but that can be the next task for this thoroughly competent military historian.

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Mazarr, Michael J. *Semper Fidel: America & Cuba, 1776-1988*. Baltimore, Md.: The Nautical & Aviation Publishing Co. of America, 1988. 521pp. \$24.95

Other than a rather catchy title, Mr. Mazarr offers us nothing new in this piece that is brazenly referred to in the dust jacket as "the first comprehensive history of Cuban-American relations." The book is essentially a chronological review of major events in the last three hundred and fifty years of history as it pertains to events that affected both Cuba and America. The first half dutifully ticks off the high points between the arrival to the New World of Christopher Columbus up to the socialist revolution in 1959. It is as though the author constructed a timeline of significant events and then fleshed it out with a paragraph or two for each event listed. To be sure, some topics deserve, and receive, greater coverage than others; Mr. Mazarr is comparatively generous with the Monroe Doctrine, according it nearly two full pages.

Of course, there's nothing wrong with history by chronology, even if the analysis is often lacking. Unfor-

tunately for Mr. Mazarr, Hugh Thomas' encyclopedic *Cuba: The Pursuit of Freedom* is, and will be for some time, the reigning chronological narrative of Cuban history, weighing in at a truly impressive 1,696 pages. (To his credit, the author generously quotes from and refers to Thomas' important work.) Of course, Mr. Thomas devoted a separate work of 771 pages to the Cuban revolution itself, a topic to which Mr. Mazarr devotes less than one-tenth of his book, in an apparent desire not to stray too far from his timeline by actually analyzing something.

It is probably unfortunate that the author was unable either to limit his subject matter adequately or devote the necessary time to interpret properly the subject matter he decided to include. In those rare instances when he does comment rather than simply chronicle events, he provides generally balanced and non-ideologic insight, a difficult feat with a topic of this volatility. For example, his discussion of the root causes of the revolution and the nature by which Castro radicalized it provides a fairly complete review of the major positions in this continuing debate. But in this portion of the book where the author is arguably at his best, he emerges as something of a synthesizer, summarizing the literature without really contributing to it.

The concluding chapter expresses Mr. Mazarr's hope that "the reader has not discerned any blatant political bias, or any attempt to foster one

particular view of Cuban or American policy." Small chance of this. Indeed, the author scrupulously avoids exposing any particular viewpoint at all. In a literature deeply tainted by the arresting hues of the political extremes, this is the book's sole achievement. However, one is left with simply an almanac of Cuban-American history, supported by prose that does little more than summarize the works of others. If one desires an encyclopedic reference of Cuban-American relations, this book provides that, but there are better available. If it is historical analysis the reader is after, look elsewhere.

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Newhouse, John. *War and Peace in the Nuclear Age*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1989. 427pp. \$22.95

War and Peace in the Nuclear Age is a companion book to the highly acclaimed, thirteen-part television series of the same name, produced by the Public Broadcasting System. It is both a historical work that chronicles the development of nuclear power from its earliest days, and a strategic guide that offers insight into dealing with nuclear power. Organized into thirteen chapters and an epilogue, with extensive notes and an outstanding bibliography, the book is doubly useful as both a fast-paced narrative and a significant