

1989

High Treason: Essays on the History of the Red Army, 1918-1938

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Recommended Citation

Cox, Gary P. (1989) "High Treason: Essays on the History of the Red Army, 1918-1938," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 42 : No. 3 , Article 19.

Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol42/iss3/19>

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China had "stood up": the first Opium War of 1839-42; the Taiping Rebellion (1850-64), with its emphasis on land reform, women's rights and anti-Confucianism; the shock of defeat in the Sino-Japanese War of 1895; the 1898 Hundred Days of reform; the reaction to the Boxers' failure in 1900; the abolition of the Civil Service examinations in 1905 (the basis of both Chinese government and literate society); the abolition of the empire in 1911; and unification under the Kuomintang in 1927.

All of these and other mileposts are described by Professor Fairbank with detachment, wit, and yet, sympathy. He acknowledges that his job has been made easier by the many learned contributions his colleagues made to the six-volume *Cambridge History of China* of which he was coeditor.

Aside from academic noses out of joint, there has been criticism of Fairbank's book because in some instances he seems to strain to demonstrate analogies that may not be complete between present day and historical China.

One point, however, is beyond argument. After reading this book one may be amazed, baffled or discomfited by events in China, but no one will be fooled, particularly by politicians or propagandists. This alone would put us deep in Professor Fairbank's debt.

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Rapoport, Vitaly and Alexeev, Yuri.
High Treason: Essays on the History of the Red Army, 1918-1938. Trembl, Vladimir G. and Adams, Bruce, eds. Translated by Bruce Adams. Durham, N.C.: Duke Univ. Press, 1985. 436pp. \$35

The enormous struggle between the Soviet Union and Germany has long fascinated historians and professional students of World War II. Perhaps no phase of this conflict has received more attention in the West than this campaign's opening; the deep German penetration, the massive Soviet losses, and the great battles at the gates of Moscow. One of the most interesting questions concerning these operations relates to the performance of the Red Army. Why was it caught so unprepared and savaged so mercilessly by the Wehrmacht?

High Treason is one of the first books to explore this tragic episode in detail. What emerges from this riveting account is a portrait of the destruction of the "old" Red Army by Stalin and his regime on such a scale that, as the text notes, by 1938 "all that was left of the Red Army was its name." This episode was all the more ironic because it followed a brief, but intense period of intellectual ferment and openness that could have moved the army into the forefront of interwar tactical innovation, and almost certainly could have precluded the disasters of 1941. Instead, Stalin and his party bureaucracy struck. Sixteen pages of tables are needed to list the principal victims. In addition to its detailed, if

at times eclectic account of the military purges, the book is also important because it is an example of the *samizdat* literature that has been smuggled into the West.

Vitaly Rapoport is a Red Army veteran now living in New York City, while Yuri Alexeev is the pseudonym for a writer still living in the Soviet Union. Both are Russian patriots, indignant at the defeats and outraged by the horrifying casualties their country suffered in 1941. They are sympathetic to the Red Army, reserving their ire for Stalin and the political leadership that they hold expressly responsible for the debacle of 1941.

The book is not without flaw. The very nature of *samizdat* makes documentation sketchy. The condemnation of Stalin and the Party will scarcely startle the Western reader, yet the details of the army purges and the character portraits of the victims and the perpetrators cancel out the volume's shortcomings. This is an important book, both for understanding the decisive front of the Second World War, and for analyzing the complex relationship between Party and army that plays so crucial a role in the modern Soviet state.

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Leiken, Robert S. and Rubin, Barry,
eds. *The Central American Crisis*

Reader. New York: Summit Books, 1987. 718pp. \$24.95

Wiarda, Howard J. *Finding Our Way? Toward Maturity in U.S.-Latin American Relations*. Washington, D.C.: American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, 1987. 286pp. \$27.50

Wiarda, Howard J. and Falcoff, Mark. *The Communist Challenge in the Caribbean and Central America*. Washington, D.C.: American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, 1987. 249pp. \$24.75

Three cheers for three outstanding books! For the informed public policy or international relations professional who has for the past decade or so avoided the seeming quagmire of obscure history and confusing relationships that the Central American crises represent, this collection of volumes will go a long way toward easing anxieties. The authors and editors of these books provide a sober and balanced evaluation of the proximate causes of today's strife, without losing sight of their audience: foreign policy specialists in the United States. As a result, they have skillfully avoided the increasing pitch and downright "clientelism" to which Latin Americanists frequently fall prey as they offer policy prescriptions that ignore American political realities.

Messrs. Leiken and Rubin have provided us with the most comprehensive collection of relevant documents and articles available. Their dense volume is divided thematically, with chapters such as