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## NATO Strategy and Nuclear Defense, Contributions in Military Studies, No. 69

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Carl H. Amme

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examines a vast range of alternatives and, despite the fiscal appeal of nuclear weapons, eventually sees a conventional NATO defense as the best option; but bear in mind, the author continually reminds the reader that "best" does not necessarily mean "politically feasible."

In examining the Persian Gulf and the Rapid Deployment Force, he reminds us that the United States should not get into a conflict in two places at once.

While many may not agree with Berkowitz' arguments, he is persuasive and clear.

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Amme, Carl H. *NATO Strategy and Nuclear Defense*, Contributions in Military Studies, No. 69. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1988. 208pp. \$37.95

Time proves it to have been no accident that Carl H. Amme won the U.S. Naval Institute's Annual Prize Essay Award four times in the past, and in 1962 the Navy League's Alfred Thayer Mahan Award for Literary Achievement. His new book could not be more timely in providing the background for consideration of problems of NATO strategy and offering a way out of the dilemma of a policy of no first use of nuclear weapons which has been a tacit part of American strategic thinking since the NATO alliance was formed.

A key assumption of Amme's strategy hinges upon acknowledgment that superpowers have parallel

interests in preventing war with one another. There are cooperative as well as competitive aspects to military confrontation. Arms control is labeled by Amme as an aspect of military cooperation. He examines problems and principles useful in nuclear arms control negotiation and implementation.

The author has some fairly controversial solutions to problems of Atlantic alliance defense. They are based in part upon his in-depth knowledge of the strategic alliance, its ups and downs, the effects of de Gaulle's withdrawal of France (which he calls "defection") from NATO's military arm, and the military impact of the independent network of alliances in which most NATO members are linked, Bismarck-style.

Carl Amme proposes an advertised doctrine of nuclear constraints. He argues that this makes it possible to use battlefield nuclear weapons in a selective and discriminate way, even in defensive first use, without escalation as the inevitable result. Promulgating rules of engagement that make it clear to all that first use of battlefield nuclear weapons is not a starter's gun for world war III would diminish fear of tactical nuclear weapons. He discusses the narrow line between "offensive" and "defensive," "tactical" and "strategic" nuclear arms, but argues that modernization has redefined the tactical defensive weaponry essential to NATO military strength in light of Soviet/Warsaw Pact nations holding a preponderance in conventional

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force strength not requiring mobilization to report to the front.

Amme's advertised doctrine of nuclear constraints is compatible with the concept of maintaining a "firebreak" against the accidental spreading of battlefield nuclear conflagration. His doctrine translates into a NATO strategy of increased flexible nuclear deterrence capability, while presenting a less provocative and more credible strategic posture to the Soviets.

The author sketches the quarter-century of events since the period when NATO defense strategy was based simply upon the West's tactical nuclear weapons superiority, provides an incisive explanation of de Gaulle's action and its lasting effect, and examines the strategic and tactical posture of the Soviet Union and Warsaw Pact allies. However, his analysis stops short of the warming of détente and the signing of the INF treaty because when the manuscript went to press the treaty was not yet a reality, in spite of a seven-year gestation.

Carl H. Amme avoids falling into the trap of arguing that the principal problem to be solved is military, although the book reflects military solutions and implies that peacetime deployment of forces can carry with it a message of peaceful intent.

*NATO Strategy and Nuclear Defense* is an important book not for the bookshelf, but as a reference for our own "restructuring."

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George, James L., ed. *The Soviet and Other Communist Navies: The View from the Mid-1980s*. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1986. 436pp. \$24.95

This collection of interesting and important papers, "the second of a proposed continuing series looking at the vital sea-power issues that face the United States and the Western alliance" (from the preface), should be examined by everyone interested in the military competition between the United States and the U.S.S.R. For the specialist, this volume surveys the different perspectives now used in the analysis of Russian naval and military developments. For those who need to focus more on what the Russian Navy might do than on why, this collection of papers and comments provides some thought-provoking ideas.

Composed of papers originally given at the 1985 Sea Power Forum sponsored by the Center for Naval Analyses, *The Soviet and Other Communist Navies* includes papers by established analysts of Soviet naval developments such as Robert Herick, James McConnell, Michael McGwire, and Alvin Bernstein. There are also papers on the other communist navies, including those of Poland, the German Democratic Republic, Yugoslavia, Cuba, and the People's Republic of China. The breadth of topics covered and the quality of the papers makes the volume a useful reference to the issues which U.S. policymakers must address when considering U.S. strategy toward the U.S.S.R. and