

1988

Recent Books

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Recommended Citation

Uhlig, Frank Jr. (1988) "Recent Books," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 41 : No. 4 , Article 32.
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol41/iss4/32>

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RECENT BOOKS

Annotated by

Christine Danieli, Christine Fagan, Lynne Tobin et al.

Best, Edward. *U.S. Policy and Regional Security in Central America*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1987. 182pp. \$32.50

A crisis exists in Central America due to its internal social, political, and economic problems. Best explores several policy options (military intervention, containment and coercion, and settlement) and their implications in an attempt to show U.S. determination to avoid another Cuba or Vietnam. Accordingly, the United States has increased its state of readiness and preparedness in an attempt to restore regional stability and safeguard its interests in the region. A well-written evaluation of U.S. policy.

Bloom, Allan D. *The Closing of the American Mind*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1987. 392pp. \$18.95

Professor Bloom argues in his best-seller that today's students have no firm foundation in ethics and humanities; rather, they are taught relative values and technological subjects. Colleges and universities, therefore, are failing the Nation by producing citizens uneducated in the classics of Western culture and the politics of democracy. Bloom's style is persuasive and should touch a fundamentalist chord in most readers—have we not always been easily convinced of the decline of the younger generation? *The Closing of the American Mind* should be read as a stimulus to thought and argument on methods for improving our educational system and not as the ultimate answer.

Calleo, David P. *Beyond American Hegemony: The Future of the Western Alliance*. New York: Basic Books, 1987. 288pp. \$20.95

According to David Calleo the time has come for the United States to recognize its limitations as a superpower and to share the burden of the Western defense on a more equitable basis with our European allies. Although this concept is not new, Calleo's approach is refreshing and constructive. He sees this transition as a positive result of global recovery from the devastation of World War II as well as an imperative step in avoiding an American decline due to overextension. Calleo applies his

expertise in both American-European relations and political-economic issues in developing his opinions on the future of NATO and American foreign policy.

Chopra, V. D. *Pentagon Shadow over India*. New Delhi: Patriot Publishers, 1985. 223pp. \$5

The basic premise of this political discourse is that the United States is a racist and neocolonialist power run by the military. In order to prove this, Chopra delineates the history of British and American foreign policy relating to India and then illustrates how U.S. policy currently seeks to surround India with American-aligned countries. India has chosen an independent path of capitalist development and is a political leader of the nonaligned nations; therefore, it is an offense to American imperialism. According to Chopra, India believes in peaceful coexistence and desires that the Indian Ocean be a zone of peace. He is convinced that the Pentagon's geopolitical plans will adversely affect India's unity and security. The author cites America's self-assignment as leader of the free world, the decrease of civilian control over the Pentagon, and the rise of military power in the U.S. economy and politics as his supporting facts. His book is useful for discussion and for the reader who needs to understand this Asian view of U.S. foreign policy.

Cordesman, Anthony H. *The Iran-Iraq War and Western Security, 1984-1987: Strategic Implications and Policy Options*. New York: Jane's, 1987. 185pp. \$28

Labeling the Iran-Iraq war a "war of lies" due to propaganda and press distortions, Cordesman draws from a variety of media sources in order to provide statistical information on arms shipments, oil production, reserves and exports, military manpower, and trend projections. He focuses on strategic implications and Western policy options rather than on actual causes of the conflict. In discussing the forces that shape the course of the war, the author devotes a separate chapter to each of the years mentioned. His prognosis is grim—intangibles such as morale and the mistakes and successes of individual commanders might influence the outcome of the war and that the war could even broaden to include nearby states.

Esposito, John L., ed. *Islam in Asia: Religion, Politics, and Society*. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 1987. 272pp. \$29.95

For many Americans, Islam is a concept that elicits a negative response often based on fear and misinformation. In 1983 the Asia Society launched a program to address this problem through conferences, meetings, and publications—such as this book—designed to illustrate how Islam affects Asian society and politics. This collection of essays highlights the diversity and complexity of Islam by focusing on its varied effects throughout Asia. Thus, the Asia Society hopes to foster some sense of objectivity in the

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American approach to international relations in Asia. Essays are explanatory and cover several countries from Iran to the Philippines. Surprisingly, despite its large Islamic population, Bangladesh has been omitted.

Guerrier, Steven W. and Thompson, Wayne C. *Perspectives on Strategic Defense*. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1987. 358pp. \$29.95

The editors, Guerrier and Thompson from Virginia Military Institute, have put together a very useful sourcebook on the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI or "Star Wars"), based on two symposia held at VMI in 1986. Part one contains papers submitted for the symposia, edited transcripts of remarks made at the conferences, and some question and answer sessions. Part two contains the public statements of American, Russian, and U.S. allied government officials and interest groups on the subject of SDI and includes a copy of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, 1972. The glossary and extensive index provide researchers quick reference.

Hess, Gary R. *The United States' Emergence as a Southeast Asian Power, 1940-1950*. New York: Columbia Univ. Press, 1987. 448pp. \$45

The 1940s were important years in terms of emerging U.S. policy in Southeast Asia. In this book, Hess begins by examining Japanese-American rivalry in early 1940-41 as the United States sought to protect its interests in the region. He discusses international tensions over colonialism; the postwar treatment of Thailand; U.S. political, economic, and military commitment to the area and how, with the outbreak of the Korean war, the United States came to view Southeast Asia as a major source of its conflict with the U.S.S.R.

Iriye, Akira. *The Origins of the Second World War in Asia and the Pacific*. New York: Longman, 1987. 202pp. \$12.95

As part of the *Origins of Modern War* series, Akira Iriye, a University of Chicago history professor, focuses on the years 1931 to 1941 in the Pacific region. His use of Japanese and Chinese primary source material and his knowledge of the domestic ramifications of international politics make this slim volume especially interesting. The questions that Iriye establishes as framework for this book are: first, how a war between two Asian countries evolved into a war between a single nation and a multinational coalition; and second, why did the Western powers on the one hand do nothing when Japan overran Manchuria in 1931, but then risk war with Japan by coming to China's assistance in 1941? To answer these questions, Professor Iriye details the series of miscalculations by Japan that led to her steady isolation in world affairs and the manner in which the United States and European powers dealt with Japan, i.e., choosing deterrence rather than appeasement and, consequently, also miscalculating.

Jackson, William. *Withdrawal from Empire: A Military View*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1986. 285pp. \$29.95

This book gives a detailed account of Britain's orderly retreat from empire after World War II. Although mainly concerned with military campaigns, political and economic factors are also examined. Jackson recounts the creation of the British Empire—its “rags to riches” story—and its eventual transition into a commonwealth, and suggests that technological trends since 1971 have impacted upon British strategic thinking and military policy.

Jennings, Francis. *Empire of Fortune*. New York: Norton, 1988. 520pp. \$27.50

This book focuses on the French and Indian War, a war that long has been viewed in romantic terms that pit *good* (England) against *evil* (France). Francis Jennings rescues important political and military realities from long-held myths. He documents the cynical conspiracies of Thomas Penn, son of the famous Quaker, and “proves” that Penn's greed was directly responsible for bloody conflicts. Jennings has gone deeply into Quaker records for evidence which has been largely ignored until now. *Empire of Fortune* reveals truths about war and politics that have relevancy for today.

Kitson, Frank. *Warfare as a Whole*. Boston: Faber and Faber, 1987. 186pp. \$12.95

In his introduction, General Sir Frank Kitson explains his theory that warfare is a continuum of various types of warfare from limited to all-out nuclear exchange and, thus, a “whole.” This highly readable book is divided into current and projected British Army commitments and addresses how best to meet those commitments in light of the changes nuclear weapons have forced on the ways in which wars are and will be fought. Conventional forces will no longer be used to win wars but instead to gain time for negotiation; also, each NATO ally may have a different time requirement. As a retired military officer speaking out on readiness and joint operations, General Kitson has generated some controversy. However, his ideas on the nature of future warfare and on NATO are valuable to a wide audience.

Lens, Sidney. *Permanent War: The Militarization of America*. New York: Schocken Books, 1987. 252pp. \$18.95

Permanent war is defined not as war that is unending, but rather as one fought daily, with no victors, in the form of either open battle fighting (army, navy, air force) or by subversion, dirty tricks, assassination, etc. Lens, recently deceased, contended that Government agencies, particularly the FBI and CIA, instead of protecting our national security, secretly operate a second government under the direction of misguided and zealous individuals who equate the words “national security” with privileged

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immunity. Also analyzed is how U.S. policy oftentimes undermines the struggle for peace and democracy in various regions of the world and how our system of separation of powers is failing to check internal abuses.

MacDonald, Callum A. *Korea, the War before Vietnam*. New York: Free Press, 1986. 330pp. \$24.95

The Korean war lasted for 37 months. Although limited, it was a popular war, one of opportunity, and symbolized U.S. determination to fight communism. MacDonald carefully describes American involvement in the conflict and discusses the invasion and near-total occupation of the South, military uncertainties, MacArthur's illusion of total victory, our willingness to accept stalemate, the POW issue, and the political future of Korea. The book is divided into two sections: one dealing with politics and strategy; the other with military experiences, frustrations, and bureaucratic rivalry.

McCutchan, Philip. *The Convoy Commodore*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1987. 186pp. \$12.95

Philip McCutchan, who served in the British Navy in World War II, has written more than 60 adventure novels, many of which have a naval setting. With *The Convoy Commodore* he begins a new naval series featuring Commodore Mason Kemp, RNR, formerly of the Australia run and now commanding convoys in the submarine-infested sea-lanes of the North Atlantic. In his first run, taking a convoy of precious ships in ballast back to Halifax, he encounters the "former naval person" on his way to a historic meeting with a former Assistant Secretary of the Navy. With two wolf packs between him and Halifax and his escorts stripped from him, Kemp must decide how to both protect his convoy and decoy for the *Prince of Wales* task force. McCutchan accompanies Kemp's convoy with a wonderful range of nautical characters—brave merchant skippers, a drunken purser, overage gunners called to service, and an amorous nurse. McCutchan writes a first-rate airplane novel. Buy it and save it for a long transcontinental flight. It is guaranteed to be a whole lot more fun than the in-flight movie!

Preston, Anthony, ed. *History of the Royal Navy in the 20th Century*. Novato, Calif.: Presidio Press, 1987. 224pp. \$50

Abundantly illustrated with paintings, photographs, and maps, *History of the Royal Navy* surveys the British naval landscape from the Edwardian navy to the Falklands war and into the future. Assisting the editor are David Lyon, a specialist in ship design and naval ordinance, dealing, in particular, with the Edwardian navy; Philip Ammis, a world authority on British naval uniforms, swords, and decorations; Hugh Lyon, an expert on British naval shipbuilders and the technical history of the Royal Navy, 19th and 20th

centuries; Collin Wood, a specialist in technical history and particularly the Royal Navy in both World Wars; and naval authors Desmond Wettern and Anthony Watts, formerly of the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Navy International* respectively.

Roberts, David. *The Ba'th and the Creation of Modern Syria*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1987. 182pp. \$35

The main objective of this book is to provide a detailed analysis of, and introduction to, Ba'thism based on primary sources (Ba'th party documentation and basic historical works), and the author's personal experiences. Roberts discusses the origins, evolution, and structure of the Ba'th; its ideology as a crucial element of Syrian history; international conflicts, coups, and the rise of such figures as Gamal Abdel Nasser in 1958 and Hafiz al-Asad in 1970; the effects of land reform, education, and social change on the work force and the economy; and concludes with a look toward the future of Syria and Ba'thism in the Arab world.

Schoultz, Lars. *National Security and United States Policy toward Latin America*. Princeton: Princeton Univ. Press, 1987. 377pp. \$42.50

In studying the strategic importance of Latin America to the United States, Schoultz has determined that the two major concerns of American policymakers are the causes and the consequences of instability in this area. Using both the public record and personal interviews, he elaborates on how different perceptions of these factors have shaped American foreign policy since World War II. Issues such as poverty, communism, strategic raw materials, U.S. military bases and local support, sea lines of communication, Soviet military presence, and the global balance of power are discussed in detail. The author theorizes that a new outlook is developing toward Latin America which is no longer based on cold war politics, but instead focused on the struggle against poverty and injustice.

Sleeper, Raymond S., ed. *Mesmerized by the Bear: The Soviet Strategy of Deception*. New York: Dodd, Mead, 1987. 384pp. \$22.95

There is no doubt as to this book's point of view. The map on the inside cover of "Soviet Global Power Projections," the introduction by Congressman Jack Kemp, and the notable names on the roster of contributors, all indicate that the reader will find only strong support for the editor's political philosophy. Sleeper feels the West will always fall prey to Soviet deception in its search for détente, peaceful coexistence, or arms control as long as: the media believes every new Soviet leader is really a "closet liberal"; and, the public naively hopes for peace but fails to understand the Soviet concept of peace (*mir*).

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Starr, Richard F., ed. *The 1987 Yearbook on International Communist Affairs*.

Stanford, Calif.: Hoover Institution Press, 1987. 640pp. \$49.95

This *Yearbook* (the twenty-first consecutive publication) offers data on the organization, authorities, and international contacts of Communist parties and Marxist-Leninist movements throughout the world during the calendar year 1986. Information has been derived primarily from published sources, including newspapers and journals, as well as from radio transmissions monitored by the U.S. Foreign Broadcast Information Service. Journalists, policymakers, scholars, and business firms should find this volume a useful reference source.

Summers, Harry G., Jr. *Vietnam War Almanac*. New York: Facts on File Publications, 1985. 416pp. \$12.95

In *Vietnam War Almanac*, Harry Summers provides a valuable reference tool for anyone studying the Vietnam war. Organized into three parts, the first supplies the setting for our war in Vietnam. It is a mix of Indochinese history, geography, and culture. Part two chronicles the political and military events, from 1959 through 1975, relating to the Vietnam war. These events include unit arrivals and departures, major battles, U.S. political and social happenings, changes in political and military leadership, and more. The third part is in the nature of an encyclopedia with over 300 pages of definitions; descriptions of personalities, weapons equipment, military jargon; and political/strategic issues. A 12-page bibliography of selected readings reflects the pros and cons of U.S. involvement.

Thomas, Hugh. *Armed Truce: The Beginnings of the Cold War, 1945-1946*. New York: Atheneum, 1987. 668pp. \$27.50

Armed Truce examines the causes of the cold war and documents its complex beginnings at the dawn of the nuclear age—a political environment shaped by such notable figures as Stalin, Molotov, Churchill, Roosevelt, de Gaulle, Franco, and Mackenzie King. The book opens with a description of postwar Russia seeking territorial expansion and then focuses on the West. Hugh Thomas not only explores the tension between opposing sides in the cold war, but also the postwar unease between England and the United States when England was a fading power and the United States was on the rise. *Armed Truce* illuminates the history of a past generation.

Waller, Douglas C. et al. *The Strategic Defense Initiative: Progress and Challenges*.

A Guide to Issues and References. Claremont, Calif.: Regina Books, 1987. 172pp. \$18.95

A critical survey drawn from two congressional studies prepared by the authors for Senators William Proxmire, J. Bennett Williams, and Lawton Chiles during 1986 and 1987, information for this study came not from SDI critics, but from more than 60 top scientists, engineers, managers, and

experts deeply involved with, and supportive of, SDI research. It has been supplemented with a discussion of SDI's relationship to arms control, the Soviet Union's antagonism to SDI, and the politics of SDI funding. The text is amplified by a dozen illustrations, charts, and tables, and an expanded reference chapter contains nearly 500 citations to the SDI program and related issues.

Whitehurst, Clinton H., Jr. *The U.S. Shipbuilding Industry*. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1986. 282pp. \$27.95

Although written for economists, Clinton Whitehurst's *The U.S. Shipbuilding Industry* is of importance to all who are concerned for the future capability of the Navy. While glamour weapons such as the Aegis and Tomahawk capture our attention, ships must carry them to the fight. These ships must not only be built, they must also be repaired, overhauled, and modernized throughout their long lifetimes. This must be done in shipyards—a basic heavy industry which, as Whitehurst shows, has been in serious decline during this century. Using an impressive mass of economic and industrial data, Whitehead paints a bleak picture of the likely ability of this industry to support a growing and aging Navy in the future.

Wood, Michael. *In Search of the Dark Ages*. New York: Facts on File Publications, 1987. 224pp. \$22.95

In Search of the Dark Ages is not a blueprint for the future but a spin-off of the BBC-TV series *In Search of . . .* Readable and pitched at the PBS audience, the book uses recent historical, textual, and archaeological research to illuminate formerly dark corners in Britain's history from Boadicea ("Relished by the learned as Boudicca. . .") to William the Conqueror.

Ziemke, Earl F. and Baner, Magna E. *Moscow to Stalingrad: Decision in the East*. Washington: U.S. Govt. Print. Off., 1987. 558pp. \$24 (GPO S/N 008-029-00140-3)

This volume's extensive and comprehensive introduction details the strategic preparations of both sides on the eve of the German attack. The narrative then moves to the Russian counteroffensive at Moscow in December and concentrates on the January-October 1942 period—the months of decision in the East. After two summers and a winter in the Soviet Union, the German Army was put on the strategic defensive. *Moscow to Stalingrad* makes use of voluminous German and Soviet sources; it also notes that the new information from Russian sources reflects Soviet doctrine and policy and, thus, is limited in its objectivity. The book's 44 detailed maps provide a vivid representation of each operation to enhance the reader's understanding of the events on the Eastern Front.