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## The Balance of Power in East Asia

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and South Asia. In place of a conclusion, a cross-regional analysis by Sheldon Simon aggregates the specific conditions in the various Asian countries by assessing prospects for regional cooperation instead of conflict.

As might be expected in a collection that covers countries ranging from China to Afghanistan, the quality is at times uneven and the updating since 1982 has not always been thorough. Nevertheless, the book provides valuable insight into the military's role in the domestic affairs of countries which are of increasing strategic importance to the United States.

Besides Olsen, Jurika, and Simon, contributors include Douglas Pike on Vietnam, James Buck on Japan, and June Teutel Dreyer on China.

*The Armed Forces in Contemporary Asian Societies* would be a valuable addition to the libraries of students of Asian affairs. It also provides good background for those wishing to learn how the military influences Asian society. But, as the editors caution, leave your cultural relativism at home when you examine these disparate military structures, and the good and bad they have brought upon their nations.

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This compact volume by British specialists in Asian affairs does a good job as far as it goes. The trouble is, it does not go far enough. The topics included in its brief survey of major powers, medium powers, and regional issues in East and Southeast Asia are perfectly adequate, but the coverage is not. Though the book was published in 1986, the scope of data seems to terminate in 1983-84. Consequently, some of the chapters are able to withstand such evident delays in publication, while others do not fare as well. The chapters that are most seriously overtaken by events are those dealing with Korea, Australia, ASEAN, and Soviet policy. In neither the Soviet nor the Korean chapters is the 1984-86 improvement in U.S.S.R.-DPRK military ties covered. Both suffer accordingly. The Australian and ASEAN chapters are hurt by the nonexistent coverage of New Zealand's shift in nuclear policy and its consequent damage to the ANZUS Pact. The ASEAN chapter also has no coverage of the transfer of power from Marcos to Aquino and the subsequent implications for regional security. Other chapters also are weakened because of the relevance of these events to all the major powers' policies in Asia. Though leaving out the Philippine events may be understandable, depending on the actual date of publication within 1986, the absence of coverage on the other topics is a serious flaw.

As a result, what would otherwise have been a useful survey of evolving strategic affairs in the Western

Leifer, Michael, ed. *The Balance of Power in East Asia*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1986. 157pp. \$27.50

Pacific, is not quite so useful. As one who has experienced delays in having one's work published, I can sympathize with writers' and editors' frustrations over slow publication processes. However, the fact remains that any volume on contemporary strategic affairs that is not brought reasonably up-to-date prior to publication is inevitably handicapped by its omissions. Accordingly, while this volume can be recommended for specialists who can fill in the gaps for themselves and can benefit by the British perspective on a region where Great Britain is no longer a major actor, novices in Asian security affairs need to be more cautious in assessing these analyses.

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Barnaby, Frank. *The Automated Battlefield*. New York: Macmillan, 1986. 180pp. \$18.95

The vision of the automated battlefield is more aptly described as a battlespace where the opposing forces will be located, tracked and targeted by systems that employ high capacity data-links, computer-assisted intelligence evaluation, and automated fire control of weapons with pinpoint accuracy and enhanced lethality. All this occurs increasingly in real time due to the enabling factors of microelectronics and materials. This battlefield of the near future may become so lethal as to be turned over to robots and func-

tionoids. Consider the parallel accomplishments—here today—of Remotely Piloted Vehicles (RPV) and the powerful Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS).

Frank Barnaby provides a contextual setting for a discussion of the potential and the implications of military technologies that are, for the most part, here today. Technologists lost in the trees of their art, and military practitioners who are wedded to tradition ignore this book at their peril. Futurists, explorers of warfighting concepts, and those interested in the interactions of technology and military strategy will find much to chew on.

Barnaby describes a disastrous tank battle of the future with the lament that the tankmen heeded not the warnings of the technologists. Nor could these leaders face the idea that their tanks could have been made obsolete by technological advances. Tanks are not the only potential military dinosaurs that Barnaby addresses in this book.

Automation, machines that think—functionoids, militarized robots, missiles, RPVs that operate on land, in the ocean, in the air, and in space—form the bases for the battlespace of the future. These techniques, coupled with weapons of enormously increased lethality, will force a reappraisal of tactics and procedures for waging armed conflict. The automated weapons of the future are being phased into the arsenals of the major powers and increasingly are being found in the Third World. Automation tech-