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## German Naval History: A Guide to the Literature

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that Germany's soldiers sought "reconstruction through armament." By 1938, he argues, Germany was "an armed camp that could not possibly demobilize without major social and political repercussions—and the army did not want Germany to disarm."

Four essays tackle the Third Reich. Klaus Maier cogently makes the case that the *Luftwaffe* from the start saw its role as that of a "deterrent force" by "producing fear and political intimidation" among civilian populations. Bernd Wegener showcases his work on the *Waffen-SS* as the "military instrument of the National Socialist movement." Jürgen Förster once more traces the penetration of the *Wehrmacht* with National Socialist racial doctrine and its war of extermination in the East. Those who still believe that the army fought a "clean" war in the Soviet Union might take a look at the 707th Infantry Division which in a single month managed to shoot 10,431 of its 10,940 "captives." Along similar lines, Manfred Messerschmidt traces the manner in which military law and courts changed to embrace and to enforce this racialization of the armed forces. Whatever one may think of the relative "fighting power" of the German and American Armies, it is instructive to remember that whereas the U.S. Army managed to maintain discipline and morale with only one case of capital punishment, the *Wehrmacht* executed no less than 11,664 of its own men! Finally, Bernard Kroener returns to the theme of unlimited goals and "limited mobilisation of resources" by show-

ing how the *Blitzkrieg* concept was undermined by the competing demands of army and industry.

Naval history is accorded two entries. Jost Dülffer plots no less than five levels of decisionmaking and seven phases of the naval buildup under Admiral Raeder to suggest that while the navy again sought world-power status through Mahanian precepts, it was no more prepared in 1939 than it had been in 1914 to tackle the twin problems of disadvantageous geographical position and inferior fleet. Gerhard Schreiber demolishes the popular notion that Raeder's Mediterranean program of September 1940 could have brought victory: on the one hand, Britain's opposition was backed by the Dominions as well as the United States; on the other hand, it would have required compromises with, and concessions to, Italy, Spain, and Vichy France that Hitler simply was not willing even to contemplate.

In conclusion, this is a superb smorgasbord that should satisfy the most critical palate. Wilhelm Deist has served English-language readers well by assembling this collection of essays otherwise inaccessible, even in truncated form, to many scholars on this side of the "great common."

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Bird, Keith W. *German Naval History: A Guide to the Literature*. New York and London: Garland, 1985. 1121pp. \$154

Keith Bird's guide to German naval history is volume seven in the series of military history bibliographies under the advisory editorship of Robin Higham and Jacob Kipp. The general editors hope that their series of international bibliographies will eventually reach more than 30 volumes devoted to military history in countries other than the United States and Great Britain. This volume is first in the series devoted to a single country's naval history.

More than half of Bird's volume is devoted to a series of nine bibliographical essays which review the literature in each period of German naval history, analyze current research themes, and make suggestions for future research which complete current themes. One of the essays, "The Origin and Role of German Naval History in the Inter-War Period, 1918-1939," appeared as an article in this journal, March-April 1979.

The lesser half of the book is an alphabetical listing of the 4,871 books and articles mentioned in the essays. This listing also serves as a kind of index with references, marred by occasionally faulty page citations.

Keith Bird has provided a magnificent piece of scholarship that represents a great step in providing a sound academic basis for the study of naval history. He deserves recognition for his achievement, and one hopes that others will follow his example and apply it to naval history in other countries. Only the astonishingly high price can prevent its wide usage.

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Haley, P. Edward and Merritt, Jack, eds. *Strategic Defence Initiative, Folly or Future*. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1986. 112pp. \$24

As reflected in the preface, the editors' objective was to publish a compilation of opposing views on SDI in a single volume which might be useful for a wide audience; they have done just that. Unlike many recent efforts, they have spanned the entire general debate rather than focus on a particular aspect. Their topics begin with the relevant text from the 23 March 1983 Presidential address with supporting and expanding positions of high administration officials, including discussions of both strategic and technical feasibility, and the U.S.-Soviet and U.S.-NATO impact on international relations and foreign policy. In each case the editors offer formal presentations by internationally recognized authors from both the "pro" and "con" communities. Each of the articles could be considered causal on their respective topics, and the collection, therefore, becomes extremely useful for anyone wishing to survey the literature and debates on SDI. However, as with any attempt to survey a broad subject, potential readers are left to their own devices to build their depth; but the breadth is provided.

To compensate for this, the editors have written an exceptional introduction which provides a succinct conceptual placement of SDI in the body of deterrent theory, the international legal environment (ABM Treaty) and general framework of