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## National Security: Enduring Problems of U.S. Defense Policy

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the "nuclear dilemma." In my opinion, these 17 pages are so well-developed that they probably are a major strength of the book. While the essay collection reviews the SDI debate from 23 March 1983 forward, the introduction synthesizes the much needed historical perspective on defense in the nuclear age, tracing key Presidential decisions in the nuclear arena.

Overall, the book accomplishes its purposes, reads easily, and presents a reasonably balanced treatment of central issues. As such, it would be quite usable in colleges and universities or for the informed and interested public.

STEVE FOUGHT  
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Snow, Donald M. *National Security: Enduring Problems of U.S. Defense Policy*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1987. 272pp. \$35

This text presents a timely, concise overview of many aspects of the national security field such as America's military experience, the evolution of our country's defense policy, conventional military threats in Europe and the Third World, current nuclear strategy, deterrence, and arms control issues. Since it is an introductory work designed for a relatively unsophisticated audience, it is written to be easily understood, and it achieves this goal. In addition, for those who desire to know more, a brief list of suggested readings is included at the end of each chapter.

In short, this book has a good deal to be said in its favor.

On the other hand, even as an introductory text, it also has some problems. First, its terminology tends to be imprecise. For example, Snow uses terms such as "wars," "intervention," "commitment of forces," and "military involvement" as though they were interchangeable when, in fact, they have distinctly different meanings.

Second, the simplicity with which most issues are discussed becomes harmful unless the reader is aware of the drastic simplification of most subjects. To cite one instance, the maritime strategy is covered in just a single paragraph of twelve lines. That is truly being concise with a vengeance!

Third, there is little sense of the connection between national security policy and foreign policy. The focus on the former tends to be so narrow that the use of U.S. military forces to aid in achieving many foreign policy goals often disappears from view. Moreover, Snow's discussion concentrates on ground combat with next to no recognition of the existence of "gunboat diplomacy."

Fourth, Snow never really looks at the institutional setting within which national security policy is made. Yet for many writers, the institutional framework itself (e.g., the structure and operations of the Joint Chiefs of Staff) is a major "enduring problem." It hardly seems fitting to discuss the nature and difficulties of many policies without any consideration of how they were developed.

Finally, apart from a couple of pages on the SLBM forces, a person new to the field might conclude from reading Snow's work that the United States has no navy or at least that its navy has few functions or components worthy of note. In this regard, the text virtually ignores the 600-ship navy, carrier aircraft operations, ASW capabilities, amphibious warfare, and a good deal else.

Too much should not be made of the criticism here. This book covers a wide assortment of important subjects in a creditable manner. Still, for this reader, the extremely severe compression of the material is at best a mixed blessing.

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Wakin, Malham M. *War, Morality, and the Military Profession*. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1986, 521pp. \$17.95

This is a revised edition of an anthology originally composed by Colonel Wakin to meet the needs of the philosophy program at the U.S. Air Force Academy, but its usefulness is not confined to Colorado Springs. The editorial matter will be helpful in the classroom, but the lasting value of the book is the selection of first-rate articles on its two major themes: the moral character of the military profession and the morality of war. The first section makes the important point that moral values are inherent in the military profession and are not

merely external constraints on it. The second section provides a cogent progression of thought from the sources of just-war theory and pacifism, through the moral prohibition of the taking of innocent lives, to the contemporary debate over nuclear deterrence. The contemporary problem that does not get explicit treatment is the question of proper responses to terrorism, though the material on killing the innocent is clearly relevant to our moral evaluations of terrorism. The book would be much helped by the addition of a bibliography and representative essays by Paul Ramsey and James Johnson, who have been the most significant recent Protestant exponents of just-war doctrine. The essays in the book are of current interest, but they will also prove to be of lasting value. Bringing them together in this form should help academic moralists and reflective officers to understand each other better.

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Wisotsky, Steven. *Breaking the Impasse in the War On Drugs*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1986, 279pp. \$35

"The War on Drugs is clearly stuck, mired in paramilitary rhetoric that obscures understanding while worsening the problem. Enforcement does not work to control supply. Therefore we must intensify enforcement. That creates terrible black