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The Dictionary of American Military Biography

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country is then described primarily by its operational history. Included is an item called "Nomenclature" that explains the meaning of each ship's name. While never seen before, it is most useful. The building yard for each ship is noted, and as expected, most have long since gone. Over 1,000 ships from 20 countries representing 500 classes are covered, also included are 600 photographs, many of them first-timers, particularly for Americans.

This is an excellent, detailed reference which includes such things as the Civil War monitors, and the *Admiral Popov*, Russia's perfectly round ship of the late 1800s. However, more recent Soviet construction gives the author trouble as he reports that the second ship of the latest *Kirov* class is the *Maxsim Gorki*—it happens to be the *Frunz*. Yet, by and large, the statistics presented are accurate.

At the price, this volume will not be a big seller. But for those interested in capital ships of the past 130 years, it is worth the coin, particularly if it can ever be found on sale. Paul Silverstone is to be commended for the substantial effort that went into this single source volume.

Battleships and Battlecruisers, on the other hand, is a flashier presentation of just those two types developed from the HMS *Dreadnought* of 1906. However, the criterion for entry and description is a given ship's existence during World War II. This British-developed publication makes extensive use of artwork prepared at other times for other publications. The *Yamato* plan and profile, for example,

are very familiar. These are assembled here very effectively with an array of good photographs, generally a bit small, although that purported to be of the *Nevada* is actually the heavy cruiser *Minneapolis*.

The basic approach is to describe each class chronologically, starting with the oldest within each country. The "Development" comments are excellent, very readable entries that cover each class' operational and design history. They approach being professional level summaries and Jordan is to be commended. All of this comes in a very compact book which is almost pocket-size and the price is right. The book is one of an extensive series of military guides covering all forms of warfare, each of which is the same compact-size. Despite its "for the masses" approach, *Battleships and Battlecruisers* provides a very worthwhile coverage of the subject.

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Spiller, Roger J., et al., eds. *The Dictionary of American Military Biography*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1984. 3v. \$145

The concept of *The Dictionary of American Military Biography (DAMB)* by Professor Roger J. Spiller, Dr. Joseph G. Dawson III, and the late Professor T. Harry Williams is audacious. The *DAMB* took seven years to produce and resulted in three volumes consisting of 1,368 pages containing 376 essays written by 339

scholars. There are also six appendixes on such subjects as the "Chronology of American Military Developments," "American Military Ranks," persons listed by birthplace, and entries by conflict and service. There is also a good index and a list of contributing scholars which reads like a who's who of American military, naval, and Air Force historians, all contributing essays to the *DAMB*. By any standards the *DAMB* was a huge project and even more remarkable is that the editors have maintained a high degree of scholarship throughout the work.

Each essay in the *DAMB* is about 1,500 words in length and follows a standard format. The essays begin with a headnote stating the subject's name, followed by place and date of birth and a brief one or two-line statement outlining his career. For example, Colonel Stephen Wates Kearny is described as a "frontier Army commander, conqueror of New Mexico, governor of California." In another example Audie Murphy is described as a "war hero, actor, author." After the headnote there are several paragraphs which, in as much detail as possible, describe the subject's military and civilian careers. Each essay ends with a statement of one or more paragraphs setting forth the importance of the person in the military history of the United States plus items of importance of a nonmilitary nature. To use Audie Murphy again as an example, roughly half the essay on him is devoted to his pre-World War II life and his military service, while the

other half covers his post-World War II career as an actor and writer. The concluding paragraph attempts to sum up Murphy's importance as a soldier. Each essay is followed by a short list of books which the reader may consult if he wishes to obtain additional information on a particular person in the *DAMB*. Further, there is an extensive system of cross-references between articles in the *DAMB*. For example, in the entry on Admiral Chester Nimitz there are cross-references to Admirals Kimmel, Halsey, and Turner as well as to Generals MacArthur, Smith and Eisenhower.

Throughout the work the editors of the *DAMB* have shown great editorial skill and discipline. At the same time they must have ground their teeth by following the policy of not interfering "with their contributors' views of their subjects . . ." This reviewer's gut reaction when he read a statement such as the one in the essay on Ernest King—that the admiral had an intellect superior to all the other members of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff and that among the British Chiefs of Staff, Air Marshal Sir Charles Portal was the admiral's only intellectual equal—would be to reach for a red pencil. Fortunately the editors did not, and the *DAMB* is a much better work because intellectual conformity was not enforced.

The most difficult task of the editors was to decide who should be included and who should be excluded from the dictionary. If, for example, all the secretaries of war and the

navy plus every general and admiral over a certain rank were included, the *DAMB* would have become a work in size comparable to the 128-volume *War of the Rebellion* and would, thus, be rendered useless as an easy to use reference book. Before making the final decision as to who to include in the *DAMB*, the editors consulted "nearly fifty leading American military historians" and drew up twenty-five lists of entries before the final decision was made. Because the editors decision to include or not to include a person was subjective, in the end nobody would be completely satisfied with the final list of entries. But this in no way should detract from the value of the book.

The *DAMB* is a masterpiece of historical editing and scholarship, and will be the standard work of its type for years to come. The skill of its editors and the scholarship of its contributors cannot be praised too highly—*The Dictionary of American Military Biography* is truly a job well done.

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Akaha, Tsunco. *Japan in Global Ocean Politics*. Honolulu, Hawaii: University of Hawaii Press, 1985. 224pp. \$19

From the first United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in 1958, to the signing of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1982, profound changes took place in global attitudes

toward the law of the sea. The most important of these has been the trend away from narrow territorial waters and open access to the oceans, toward national enclosure by means of broader territorial waters and exclusive economic zones protecting fishing and mineral rights. A more recent trend, but one that heavily influenced the latter UNCLOS sessions, has been toward international management of ocean resources. Nations less capable of exploiting ocean resources—Third World and landlocked countries—have pressed for international control as a means of sharing in the ocean's bounty and increasing their own capability to exploit that bounty.

These trends have been viewed with concern, even alarm, by the maritime nations that have prospered under the freedom of the seas regime. Possessing substantial fishing fleets, shipping industries, and investments in offshore oil and gas production, the maritime nations sought to preserve their access to ocean resources and their autonomy in defining national ocean policies. These interests were heightened as the value of ocean resources increased and rapid advances in marine technology increased the availability of ocean resources.

As Tsunco Akaha well illustrates, Japan had a vital stake in the outcome of the UNCLOS negotiations and in attempting to preserve the principle of open access against the accelerating trend toward national closure of the oceans. Japan is crucially dependent upon free access to the oceans