

1984

Sovereignty in Dispute, The Falklands/Malvinas 1493-1982

Marshall Van Sant Hall

Fritz Hoffman

Olga Mingo Hoffman

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review>

Recommended Citation

Van Sant Hall, Marshall; Hoffman, Fritz; and Hoffman, Olga Mingo (1984) "Sovereignty in Dispute, The Falklands/Malvinas 1493-1982," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 37 : No. 6 , Article 25.

Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol37/iss6/25>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Naval War College Review by an authorized editor of U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu.

creating everything from improved communications to special explosives. Every walk of life was considered at Donovan's desk to support covert operations. Not only was intelligence collection and analysis important but Donovan sensed a need to conduct guerrilla warfare in the face of the technologically advanced and trained militaries of Japan and Germany. He explained to FDR, "... the United States is still a bush league club. We must play a bush league game, stealing the ball and killing the umpire." Not only was the OSS an intelligence unit, but it was a premiere fighting force during World War II.

While the author covers the life of Bill Donovan more thoroughly than Ford's *Donovan of the OSS* (Boston: Little, Brown, 1970), Dunlop is somewhat sketchy in the OSS historical and organizational details. Furthermore, Dunlop treats Donovan as a hero throughout the biography without significant mention of faults. Donovan's womanizing may have contributed to his lifetime of largely unsuccessful political campaigns. Yet today's national intelligence structure can probably be attributed to FDR's successful harnessing of Donovan's ambitious and aggressive personality.

CHRISTOPHER MACMURRAY
Lieutenant Commander, US Navy
Defense Intelligence College

Hoffman, Fritz and Hoffman, Olga Mingo. *Sovereignty in Dispute, The Falklands/Malvinas 1493-1982*.

Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1984. 194pp. \$20

This work is one of a series of Westview special studies on Latin America. The preface gives notice of an Argentine perspective both in source material and inclination of authors who are historians by profession.

The authors do a good job with the questions of national pride and deep-rooted precedents of international law which precipitated the 1982 Falklands/Malvinas War. From the start they come down on the Argentine side, but bias does not ruin the book—other flaws nearly do. The book founders badly in dealing with the geopolitical and maritime significance of the islands. This flaw weakens the analysis of the present situation and clouds aspects of policy which would otherwise interest readers.

The authors do not adequately deal with the Falklands/Malvinas issue in terms of political geography. They acknowledge the historic utility of British south seas presence in the Falklands, as when it served as an English foot in the door to the Pacific, but virtually ignore the potential utility of the Malvinas Islands for Argentina. Accordingly, there is no discussion of how an Argentine presence in the islands might figure in British-Argentine competition and antagonisms over territorial claims just to the south, in the Antarctic Peninsula. Only one sentence is devoted to the nearby Argentine-Chilean dispute over the Beagle Channel. Nothing at all is said

of Argentine impulses to contain Chilean expansionism in the South Atlantic nor of the relevant Argentine-Chilean controversy over delimitation of Atlantic and Pacific waters in the southern reaches of the hemisphere. To put it more succinctly, the authors fail to see how Argentine sovereignty in the islands might relate to the wider range of contemporary regional issues which have to do with hegemony in the southern cone of South America.

A closer look at an atlas would have prevented other problems. Of major concern is the question of potential oil resources in the Falklands/Malvinas area. The authors too

easily discard prospects for local petroleum in saying that the nearest oil discovered in the area has been along the Argentine continental shelf. The islands are, in fact, situated on the Argentine continental shelf and not far from the Magellanes Basin from which Argentina and Chile extract oil.

Despite these flaws, the book is of value to anyone researching political events prior to and during the war. It is worth reading if only for the new and interesting details about the failed mediation efforts of Alexander Haig and Javier Perez de Cuéllar.

MARSHALL VAN SANT HALL
Commander, US Navy

Recent Books

Selected Accessions of the Naval War College Library

Annotated by

George Scheck, Mary Ann Varoutsos and Jane Viti

Lehmann, Jean-Pierre. *The Roots of Modern Japan*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1982. 352pp. \$25.00

Japan's recent commercial and industrial success has attracted much attention and indeed serious study by Western societies. In addition to an enviable degree of economic growth, Japan is also enjoying a high degree of social stability and national cohesion. In this historical analysis, the author explains how the foundations and characteristics of Japanese culture have positively contributed to the evolution of the modern Japanese nation. A distinction is made between those elements which are unique to Japan and those which can more readily be understood in a universal context. An excellent glossary of Japanese conceptual terms is included.

Leshner, Stephan. *Media Unbound: the Impact of Television on the Public*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1982. 285pp. \$15.95

For most people, television news has become the prime source of information. At the