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## The War System: An Interdisciplinary Approach

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ethnic problems in South and Southeast Asia. Harlan W. Jencks addresses China's civil-military relations. Fuad I. Khuri looks at the Middle East and Ivan Volgyes, the Warsaw Pact countries. Gwynn Harries-Jenkins discusses the implications of Western European welfare state policies upon Nato militaries. Finally, David Laitin and Drew Harker analyze the secessionist movements in Nigeria and Ethiopia.

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Falk, Richard A. and Kim, Samuel S., eds. *The War System: An Interdisciplinary Approach*. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1980. 671pp. \$37 paper \$15

This multidisciplinary anthology aims "to present what the social sciences have currently to say about the war system," concentrating on explanation and understanding as a step to later designing of "a viable peace system." The readings are, almost all, taken from American scholarly literature of the sixties and seventies. There is an explicit exclusion of two extremist points of view, namely "the popular and still prevailing pessimistic inevitability school" and "the utopian blueprint school." Also excluded is the Clausewitzian approach. The emphasis, instead, falls on morality and philosophy, ethology and psychology, cultural and anthropological inquiries, sociopsychology, sociology, socio-economic inquiries (i.e., Marxism), decision-making inquiries, interna-

tional system studies, and normative inquiries.

It follows that, for readers of this journal, the anthology is very useful in two respects. First, this volume provides an excellent sampling of recent American social science (within the constraints just noted). One of the striking features of this sampling is that the gigantic growth of weapons technology and the weapons industry is totally ignored. Also, there is only the feeblest recognition of historical trends and complexities. So the reviewer draws attention to William H. McNeill, *The Pursuit of Power: Technology, Armed Force, and Society since A.D. 1000* (University of Chicago, 1982). The displacement of conventional conflict into non-European areas was predicted shortly after World War II (See Brian Bond, *Liddell Hart*, 1977, p. 8). The response came, in 1965, in the late Marshal Lin Piao's manifesto. These and other historical aspects, alas, fall outside the conventional boundary of academic social science.

Even so, the second utility of this anthology is that three of its sections provide background reading for the concerns of readers of this journal. Section 6 covers Marxist approaches. Galtung's "Structural Theory of Imperialism" (1971) is a useful overview and introduction. The section as a whole, consisting of writings published between 1961 and 1972, is best brought up to date by consulting Anthony Brewer, *Marxist Theories of Imperialism, a Critical Survey* (London, 1980).

Section 7 deals with decision-

making. Misperception, crisis, and crisis management are covered, but the extreme crisis of surprise attack is not. See *Strategic Military Surprise*, edited by Klaus Knorr and Patrick Morgan, 1982, and the "hypergame" studies of Bennett and Dando in the *Journal of the Operational Research Society*, January 1979.

Section 8 deals with the international system. The important theme of national images and international systems is treated by K. Boulding (1959). Here, perhaps, Professor Kim has been too modest and too strict an editor; the section would have gained by an excerpt from his work on *China, the United Nations, and World Order* (Princeton, 1979). Small and Singer (1970) quantify war from 1816 to 1965, thus providing a bridge to quantitative and computer-based real-time studies of international, especially dyadic, relations. Bruce Russett's "Cause, Surprise, and No Escape" (1962) takes up a very topical concern; see Geoffrey Barraclough, *From Agadir to Armageddon: Anatomy of a Crisis* (London, 1982).

A bibliography of ten pages usefully completes this anthology; no index is needed and none is supplied. All in all, the anthology is the best book of its kind if only because it is the only book of its kind.

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Nunn, Jack H. *The Soviet First Strike Threat: The U.S. Perspective*. New York: Praeger, 1982. 292pp. \$31.95  
Risk and uncertainty often act to inhibit timely and responsive

national security policies. Jack H. Nunn contends that for many years they strongly influenced high-level American decision makers to both misperceive and overestimate the "worst case" possibility of a totally disarming Soviet "strategic" first strike threat.

While his assessment may spark some controversy among more expert readers, it also should be noted that Nunn has done a great deal to support his analysis and findings. Using a wide array of source materials, including numerous Department of Defense documents released under the Freedom of Information Act or otherwise recently declassified, he makes a strong case for his viewpoints.

Nunn's analytical approach and organizational format are the strong points of this work. Unlike many similar topical efforts, which presume a good measure of reader expertise from the outset, Nunn's work permits topical access to a wide audience by "returning to the basics" with a careful exposition of the essential nature of national security and resultant threat perceptions in his introduction and the first several chapters. If at first glance it appears overly simplistic this approach actually enhances comprehension for his more substantive treatment of the postwar period that is covered later on in the work. His discussion of the pre-World War II doctrinal antecedents to postwar U.S. national security policies (Chapter II), for example, attempts a direct linkage to the respective influences of Clause-