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## Recent Books

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# Recent Books

## Selected Accessions of the Naval War College Library

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Annotated by

George Scheck, Mary Ann Varoutsos, and Jane Viti

Avirgan, Tony and Honey, Martha. *War in Uganda: the Legacy of Idi Amin*. Westport, Conn.: Lawrence Hill, 1982. 244pp. \$16.95; paper \$9.95

Avirgan and Honey, both Western journalists based in Tanzania, recount the eight-month war in which 45,000 Tanzanian and 2,000 Ugandan liberation troops overthrew the regime of Idi Amin. Since the authors were given permission to travel to the front with the Tanzanian forces, theirs is an eyewitness account of the conflict, supplemented by scores of interviews as well as some written reports. Both opponents and supporters of the Amin government are scrutinized; and attention is given to the impact of Amin's social and economic policies on the futures of Uganda and Tanzania. In addition, the difficulties encountered by various Ugandan political factions in reestablishing a legitimate government are described in some detail.

Barracrough, Geoffrey. *From Agadir to Armageddon; Anatomy of a Crisis*. New York: Holmes and Meier, 1982. 196pp. \$22.50

Sparked by the German gunboat *Panther* which dropped anchor in the Moroccan port of Agadir on 1 July 1911, the Agadir crisis was the last of the confrontations between the great powers before the outbreak of World War I. Viewing the incident as a crisis for the whole society, Barracrough emphasizes the social and economic tensions which surfaced during that period. He also treats balance of power, imperialism, and other foreign policy issues that confronted world leaders in the prewar era. Many parallels are drawn between the tensions and turmoil depicted in 1911 and those occurring today. Just as the Agadir crisis led to war 70 years ago, Barracrough suggests that a present world crisis could propel us into a new global conflict unless we study the lessons of the past.

Beres, Louis R. *Mimicking Sisyphus: America's Countervailing Nuclear Strategy*. Lexington, Mass: Heath, 1983. 142pp. \$19.95

Beres provides a comprehensive assessment of the current US nuclear policy. He feels that equating national security with new weapons acquisition is as futile a task as that of Sisyphus, who was condemned by the gods to ceaselessly roll a boulder to the top of a mountain only to have it return to its starting place. The concepts of expanded counterforce planning and nuclear endurance are seen as not only absurd, but all the more likely to set off a nuclear exchange through accident, miscalculation, or design. The author offers his suggestions on how a nuclear weapons freeze, test ban, and reduction may be achieved.

Bunce, Valerie. *Do New Leaders Make a Difference?: Executive Succession and Public Policy under Capitalism and Socialism*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1981. 296pp. \$22.50

The importance of leaders and their mode of succession to office are central concerns in political theory. This study is an assessment of the policy impact of chief executive turnover in capitalist and socialist states. The consequences of leadership changes in a number of countries are thoroughly examined. Statistical evidence and case study scenarios both reveal a direct relationship between the succession process and changes in budgetary expenditures and policy priorities. Dr. Bunce concludes that both political and economic systems function according to the same rhythms of policy change.

Childs, David. *The GDR: Moscow's German Ally*. Boston: Allen & Unwin, 1983. 346pp. \$27.50

A comprehensive study of perhaps one of the least known but highly important states in Europe, the German Democratic Republic. Born in the eastern ruins of a defeated Germany, the GDR began moving out of obscurity in the 1970s and today sits as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council; sends military advisors into Africa, Central America, and the Middle East; and claims to have achieved economic and social miracles at home. Childs explores the basis for these claims in the context of the political, social, economic, and intellectual climate of present-day East Germany.

Choudhury, Golam W. *China in World Affairs: the Foreign Policy of the PRC since 1970*. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1982. 310pp. \$12.95

China's reemergence in world affairs following the isolation of the Cultural Revolution (1966-1969) has had significant effects upon global policy. The principal aim here is to examine changes in China's perception of the world and foreign policy since 1969, the beginning of new relations between Beijing and Washington. Dr. Choudhury gained firsthand experience working with Pakistani President Yahya Khan, President Nixon's principal intermediary during the negotiations to help initiate the United States' new policy toward the People's Republic of China. The triangular relationship of Beijing, Moscow, and Washington is also analyzed in detail. Somewhat less attention is given to China's relations with her Asian neighbors and the Third World. A professor of political science, Dr. Choudhury has authored several books on Asia.

Cohen, Sam T. *The Truth about the Neutron Bomb: the Inventor of the Bomb Speaks Out*. New York: Morrow, 1983. 226pp. \$12.50

Debate concerning the nuclear argument intensified in August 1981, when it was announced that the President of the United States had authorized the production of neutron weapons. Cohen, the nuclear analyst who developed the concept of the neutron bomb, here addresses the military, political, and moral issues surrounding the use of fusion neutron bombs in the Nato defense scheme. His explanation of how neutron weapons work attempts to dispel the myths that surround them. In his opinion neutron weapons are no more immoral than other conventional weapons. Despite widespread opposition to their use in Europe, it is Cohen's contention that Nato defense is ineffective without these weapons.

Ellis, Paul. *Aircraft of the Royal Navy*. London: Jane's, 1982. 176pp. \$17.95\*  
*Aircraft of the Royal Navy* is profusely illustrated with black and white photographs of aircraft which have made a particular contribution to aviation history. Chronologically arranged, the collection includes 120 concise histories of aircraft types from the early fighters and reconnaissance biplanes used during the First World War to today's multimission Sea Harrier. Contemporary antisubmarine helicopters are also included. The book begins with a brief description of the origin and evolution of the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm over the past 60 years.

\*Distributed by Science Books International, Boston, MA.

Fawcett, James. *Law and Power in International Relations*. London: Faber and Faber, 1982. 140pp. \$23.95

Rather than utilize theories or models, this work is a description of how law and power work in the reality of international relations. The approach is one in which the views of practitioners such as diplomats and legal advisors are drawn together with the views of observers such as political scientists. Human rights, the influence of economic power, resources, and the principle of nonintervention are also assessed. One conclusion is that law cannot create order in international relations, but a minimum degree of order greatly increases the effectiveness of international law.

Feldman, Shai. *Israeli Nuclear Deterrence*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1982. 310pp. \$25.00

Based on a doctoral dissertation and written from an admittedly partisan point of view, this book examines the effects of an Israeli shift from conventional weapons to a nuclear deterrence posture. The author favors a MAD-type policy as the most rational and effective way to deter an aggressor. This is premised on the assumption that societies will risk much in defense, but will not commit aggression when the cost may exceed the gain. The concept of "first strike" is discounted as unlikely, since a crippling reprisal follows any but a completely successful preemptive attack and is therefore not worth the risk. Other sections deal with border raids and less-than-full-scale conflicts. Feldman contends that one key to Israeli nuclear deployment as strictly a defensive commitment is a withdrawal to the pre-1967 War boundaries.

Hamill, Ian. *The Strategic Illusion: the Singapore Strategy and the Defense of Australia and New Zealand, 1919-1942*. Singapore: Singapore University Press, 1981. 387pp. \$23.50

The strategic illusion upon which the Singapore policy was based can be simply stated as the illusion that a worldwide empire could be defended by a one-hemisphere navy. This policy was a result of economic considerations and naval defense planning. If British interests in the Far East were threatened, a fleet would sail from Europe to defend the eastern empire by utilizing the modern naval facilities at Singapore. It was recognized that the success of this strategy rested on certain presumptions: either that Britain would not have to face a major enemy in Europe and in the Far East at the same time, or, if she did, it would be with a powerful ally by her side. Since neither of these conditions could be guaranteed and the theory of sea power upon which the strategy had been based was dangerously obsolete, the potential for mischief was indeed great.

Jónsson, Hannes. *Friends in Conflict: the Anglo-Icelandic Cod Wars and the Law of the Sea*. Hamden, Conn.: Archon Books, 1982. 240pp. \$34.00

Ambassador Jónsson, Iceland's Permanent Representative to the United Nations since 1980, examines four fisheries disputes between Iceland and Britain. In each instance, Iceland wanted to extend her coastal jurisdiction—from 3 to 4 miles in 1952, to 12 miles in 1958, 50 in 1972, and 200 miles in 1975. Citing two basic principles of maritime law (freedom of the high and open seas and the exclusive and preferential rights of the coastal state), the author distinguishes between the "progressive" and "colonial" doctrines of law of the sea. He describes each conflict in detail explaining how they began and were resolved, considers the legal and economic implications of each, and shows how Iceland's actions have influenced the development of present-day sea law.

Kelsey, Benjamin S. *The Dragon's Teeth? the Creation of United States Air Power for World War II*. Washington: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1982. 148pp. \$15.00

Many photographs taken from the files of the National Air and Space Museum illustrate this history of American air power prior to World War II. From 1934 to 1944, production increased from 437 to 96,318 military aircraft annually. To explain the hows and whys of this phenomenal growth, Brigadier General Kelsey draws on his personal experience supplemented by reference sources and interviews. In addition to being a leading military test pilot, he played a key role in the development of military aviation in the 1920s and '30s, flew 21 missions over Europe during the war, and was deputy director of research and development for the Air Force from 1953 to 1955. A consultant to several aviation companies after his retirement, he held the Charles A. Lindbergh Chair of Aerospace History at the National Air and Space Museum for two years prior to his death in 1981.

Kersaudy, Francois. *Churchill and DeGaulle*. New York: Atheneum, 1982. 476pp. \$19.95

Two of the great leaders of the Allied effort in World War II were the Prime Minister of Great Britain and the leader of Free France. This is an account of their relationship from the ordeals of war to the uncertainties of the postwar era. Although they jostled over policy, publicly disagreed, and presented widely variant interpretations of events in their memoirs, they still retained a certain admiration for each other. Included is an analysis of the role played by President Roosevelt in French affairs and reconsiderations of some common views of the Second World War.

Lael, Richard L. *The Yamashita Precedent: War Crimes and Command Responsibility*. Wilmington, Del.: Scholarly Resources, 1982. 165pp. \$19.95

General Tomayuki Yamashita was charged and tried for the death and torture of hundreds of civilians in the Philippines during World War II. His 1945 trial was to have far-reaching effects on the perception of command responsibility, and in fact does so to the present day. The Yamashita case was the first war-crimes trial to charge an officer with failure to exercise adequate command responsibility despite the lack of evidence linking him directly to any of the crimes. The controversy generated by this case reverberates down to the present day and has influenced such decisions as the 1977 Geneva protocols and command levels of responsibility.