

1983

Civil-Military Relations: Regional Perspectives

Joe P. Dunn

Morris Janowitz

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

Recommended Citation

Dunn, Joe P. and Janowitz, Morris (1983) "Civil-Military Relations: Regional Perspectives," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 36 : No. 5 , Article 27.

Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol36/iss5/27>

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.

Morrison's *Above and Beyond* is a good one for the casual reader unfamiliar with other similar, and more scholarly, works. (The title incidentally, is relatively meaningless.) From Pearl Harbor to V-J Day, he briskly balances strategic decision-making with battle vignettes in a breezy style akin to that of Walter Lord (*Day of Infamy, Incredible Victory*) and manages to cover most of the key events, though some only briefly (such as the first Truk strike). Personalities enliven the story, though most of the material, including the photographs, is gleaned from familiar secondary sources—only a few of which are listed in the thin bibliography. The only really original information is from interviews with selected veterans of that war, notably James S. Russell and J.D. Ramage. And the contributions of these gentlemen are very good indeed.

Morrison supplies no particular interpretations, for he is a writer of narrative, although he goes to some lengths to develop Admiral John H. Towers—ComAirPac and Deputy CinCPac 1942-45—as the unsung hero of the Pacific war. For Towers, he seems to have relied heavily upon this reviewer's *The Fast Carriers* and Admiral Russell's recollections. But he is in error to say Towers had a glass eye. According to Towers' family, the admiral suffered from cataracts developed from an electrical explosion he suffered while serving as a junior officer in the battleship *Kentucky*.

Above and Beyond is recommended reading for the officer who wishes to

be introduced to the Navy's air war in the Pacific and be entertained in the process.

Clark G. Reynolds
Patriots Point Naval and
Maritime Museum

Janowitz, Morris, ed. *Civil-Military Relations: Regional Perspectives*. Beverly Hills, Calif.: Sage, 1981. 290pp. \$22.50

As with most collections of conference papers, this one, consisting of seven articles, is not a smooth, coherent book. The quality of the fare varies greatly. Written for specialists, particularly social scientists, the book has little appeal to other readers. Moreover, by this point, most of the material is seriously dated. Although the volume is not without value, I would not recommend it very highly.

The seven articles were first presented at the 20th anniversary conference of the prestigious Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society, in October 1980. The unifying theme for the volume is a regional approach to civil-military relations around the globe for the purpose of drawing larger conclusions from the individual empirical studies.

The editor, Morris Janowitz, the world's most renowned military sociologist, opens with an essay of his own in which he traces the methodological history of the study of civil-military relations and previews the other essays. C.I. Eugene Kim surveys Asian military regimes. Ann Gregory and De Witt C. Ellinwood focus upon

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.

Joe P. Dunn
Converse College

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-