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Energy and the National Defense

William G. Collins Jr

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modernization and reform.

Trask's book is of value for anyone interested in the early experimentation of the United States with its role as a great power. Even at the high price, it is an indispensable addition to the library of any serious military or naval historian.

GRAHAM A. COSMAS
U.S. Army Center of Military History

Polmar, Norman. *The Ships and Aircraft of the U.S. Fleet*. 12th ed. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1981. 421pp. \$24.95

The 12th edition of this book continues Norman Polmar's tradition of excellence, at least in the pictorial reference part, which is, of course, the great bulk of the book. The photography is very good, and the statistical data certainly accurate enough for this kind of reference.

It is a big book, over 400 pages. It breaks down the ships of the U.S. Fleet by general type, with 11 categories of ships and 7 kinds of craft. Classes and types of ships are described in terms of their missions, design objectives, and a brief history of the class in some cases. The Military Sealift Command is ably covered, as are the many kinds of service craft, drydocks, and other support ships which might have been left out of a lesser work. Naval aviation receives an equally comprehensive treatment, including descriptions of the types, organization, air wing deployments, and even the markings of different squadrons, wings, and fleets. The aviation photography complements the text just as well as does the ship photography in the first part of the book. The book concludes with sections on weapons and electronics, once again with useful photographs to highlight what might have been uninteresting data. The final chapters cover the U.S. Coast Guard and the 14-ship "fleet" of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

(NOAA). The chapter on the Coast Guard is far superior to other such fleet references because the Coast Guard gets the same overview treatment as the Navy: organization, missions, aviation, personnel, and then coverage of specific types of ships and craft.

If there is any criticism to be offered, it concerns Mr. Polmar's rather bleak presentation of the Navy's problems and its capacity and will to resolve them, presented in the four-page introduction entitled "State of the Fleet." The problems are certainly there, and, as Mr. Polmar says, they will be hard to solve, but they are more a reflection of the state of flux in national foreign and defense policy than disarray in the Navy.

In summary, *The Ships and Aircraft of the U.S. Fleet* is the definitive reference on the subject. The information is concise, well organized, accessible, and very nicely displayed. It is well worth the price and should be purchased by every ship and ready room in the fleet.

P.T. DEUTERMANN
Commander, U.S. Navy

Bucknell, Howard III. *Energy and the National Defense*. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1981. 235pp. \$19.50

In this short, easily read book, Howard Bucknell presents a comprehensive summary of the national and world energy situation and its implications for national security. He makes clear the urgent need for aggressive action to relieve our heavy dependence on oil and gas, outlines available alternatives, and discusses the political and economic factors which bear on our collective decision process.

The recent "oil glut" makes it easy for us to forget that oil and gas are finite resources which have been heavily depleted. Howard Bucknell marshals an impressive array of figures and graphs intertwined with effective argument to

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show that we cannot reasonably expect world oil production to keep pace with demand for very many more years. Clearly, adequate substitutes must be found, or severe economic disruptions, social upheavals and wars will result.

Bucknell surveys the various means of alleviating dependence on oil and gas. He points out that the "Energy Crisis" is really an oil and gas crisis, and that ample supplies of other forms of energy exist and can be developed. He discusses in some detail the political and economic conditions which bear on America's ability to effectively utilize these other sources. He advances forceful argument that a diversity of sources including nuclear power, solar energy (in all its forms) and coal must be developed; that no one or two of these will suffice, but all are needed in applications suited to their natures; and that fuel conservation is essential during this transition period. He further argues that because of the real urgency of the situation and the concurrent failure of the general public to recognize this urgency, free market forces will probably not bring about the needed developments soon enough to avert serious and perhaps calamitous consequences. He considers strong government action necessary to stimulate technological advance, to provide incentives for energy development, and to focus public attention. He also points out that the adversary relationship which has arisen between advocates of the various energy alternatives is quite destructive, since all these alternative sources are needed to support our increasingly industrialized world society.

Concerned citizens and national policymakers alike would do well to read this book. Howard Bucknell has succeeded in establishing an orderly framework for considering the complex information on energy matters. His views are clearly stated and well supported, and should be of great help in solving the energy problem. The problem is real and the

need for solution is urgent. Failure to deal adequately with the energy problem will have disastrous consequences.

WILLIAM G. COLLINS, JR.
Commander, U.S. Navy

Said, Edward W. *Covering Islam*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1980. 186pp. \$10.95

Edward Said's book is about how the "coverage" of Islam has actually led to the "covering" of what Islam is all about. Said's aim is to defend Islam from the unattractive image offered by TV and the press, especially during the hostage crisis in Iran.

Islam has been misrepresented by the press, says Said, and he attempts to show how our biases have shaped the American view of Islamic culture. In light of the reports coming out of Iran since the taking of the U.S. Embassy late in 1979, Said's view is keenly divergent from the most common presentations. He believes that reporters and commentators, attempting to understand a culture of which they knew little, and whose language they could not read, found themselves without a framework for understanding the contemporary Islamic world. Convenient sources of information were scarce, so often the reporters and commentators had to make do with the information and attitudes they started with. As a result, the accepted view of the culture became a hostile one. Islam was equated with anti-Americanism. This Western image foreclosed any examination of the deeper meanings of Islam as a religion.

At the outset of the book, the author traces the opposing viewpoints of Occidental and Orientalist thought. (Said has expounded on the concept of Orientalist thought in his book *Orientalism*.) To the Muslim, the West represents the great evil, so the ordinary American, ill-informed though he was, was not all that wrong. To the West, Islam is the culture that dares to