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## The Soviet Air and Strategic Rocket Forces, 1939-1980

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While this reviewer cannot speak too highly of the volume and cannot envision anyone concerned with the law of war neglecting to have a copy readily available when doing any work in that area, there are two rather glaring omissions, one of which was undoubtedly intentional, and the other of which may have been so. Both editions omit the *1907 Hague Convention Relative to the Opening of Hostilities* (26 Stat. 2259). Was this because the editors believed that in view of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, this convention was no longer relevant? But their "Explanatory Notes," quoted above, state that the collection includes "all multilateral conventions," even those "which are no longer in force." Certainly, even if the *Convention Relative to the Opening of Hostilities* is no longer in force, a conclusion with which this reviewer would not agree, it deserves a place in the history of the law of war. And if it was the United Nations Charter which has caused this omission by outlawing war, what is the relevance both of the book and of the numerous agreements on the subject of the conduct of war which have been drafted during the past several decades, a number under the aegis of the United Nations itself?

In 1975 there was signed at Washington, London, and Moscow a *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons and on Their Destruction* (26 UST 583). While it is true that this may have been considered by the editors to be an "arms control" agreement rather than one restricting certain specific means of warfare, actually it is merely more extensive in its prohibitory provisions than the other documents relating to chemical and bacteriological warfare, nuclear warfare, etc.; and certainly, anyone researching the field of legal restrictions on the use of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons in

time of war would be deemed extremely remiss if he or she failed to mention this very important convention which already has approximately 90 States as parties.

On the whole, the two omissions mentioned above cannot be considered as materially reducing the requirement that this volume be on the library shelves of any serious student of the law of war.

HOWARD S. LEVIE

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Smith, Myron J., Jr. *The Soviet Air and Strategic Rocket Forces, 1939-1980: A Guide to Sources in English: Vol. X, The War/Peace Bibliography Series*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clio, 1981. 321pp. \$45

In light of the seemingly exponential increase in writings on Soviet military affairs over the past decade, bibliographies on this topic may be depressing to reminders that one has not kept up with the literary "state of the art" now available to Western researchers in the field. In the case of Myron J. Smith's volume on Soviet aerospace forces, however, one might justifiably be overcome by a gigantic guilt complex and immediately launch into an intensive reading program.

Smith's earlier research guide on the Soviet Navy earned the praise of Robert B. Bathurst of Harvard University in his March-April 1981 *Naval War College Review* book review by virtue of its accuracy, completeness, organization, and usefulness.

Equal superlatives apply to the work at hand both for the vast array of English-language sources that Smith has arranged within an easy-to-reference organizational format, and for its timely relevance to the substantial development of Soviet military power and the commensurate expansion of politico-military activities to distant regions in recent years. Encompassing some 3,250 sources, including transla-

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tions of Russian military writings and little-known research materials, Smith's volume well may rival most larger Western library indices with its thorough topical survey.

From an organizational standpoint, it is quite possible that the title greatly understates the full scope and thrusts of the data contained therein. Besides a wide array of source entries on the Soviet Air and Strategic Rocket Forces as suggested in the title, Smith's work also treats the USSR's Ministry of Defense and the vast military economic structure that supports it, aerospace weaponry and related support technologies, aerospace implications for arms control issues and the Soviet-American strategic competition, and the employment of aviation and missile forces in the USSR's quest for influence and power in distant areas.

Two further sections underline a major strength of the bibliography, its emphasis on historical development, with a considerable collection of source entries on the Soviet Air Force during the Second World War and on its postwar development to date. The latter also traces the origins and expansion of the National Air Defense Forces (*PVO-Strany*) and the Strategic Rocket Forces since the 1950s as full-fledged components of the Soviet armed forces. Smith also begins each of the seven sections with a descriptive introduction that serves as worthwhile background for specialist and generalist alike, particularly with respect to the clarification of complex organizational structures and technological data.

To be sure, the work is much more a reference guide than a mere bibliography. Besides the valuable and extensive set of source entries it also includes a detailed four-decade chronology of key events, as well as several authoritative appendices of definite pertinence to the topics of Soviet aerospace forces and air power. One of these provides biographical data on those figures, both past and

present, who raised Soviet aviation to its current powerful status.

Another appendix furnishes excellent military organizational charts covering the Ministry of Defense and its key airpower components, while still a third offers an exhaustive list of English-language Western and Soviet journals that have addressed the topics at hand on either a full-time or occasional basis. Those without fluency in Russian might take heart from this listing since it includes a considerable number of Soviet-published entries and Western translation series, like those of the U.S. Department of Commerce Joint Publication Research Service (JPRS), which minimize our deficiencies in foreign languages in the pursuit of effective and detailed research.

From start to finish, then, this work stands as a fully professional effort to provide an authoritative reference guide on Soviet air and missile forces. Beginning with the insightful foreword, with its overview of Soviet airpower trends from the Bolshevik Revolution onwards, by Dr. Kenneth Whiting of the Air Force's Air University, it bears all the earmarks of a vital and enduring research tool of definite value to scholars and military professionals. Endorsing Professor Bathurst's previous suggestion on the Soviet Navy guide, one hopes that Smith will make some further provision periodically to update the work to accommodate both later events and the resultant analysis such matters will surely receive.

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Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense  
for Public Affairs

Parrish, Michael. *The U.S.S.R. in World War II; An Annotated Bibliography of Books Published in the Soviet Union, 1945-1975*. New York: Garland, 1981. Two Volumes. 907pp. \$110

Few scholarly occupations are so needed and so neglected as that of the