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World Communism at the Crossroads: Military Ascendancy, Political Economy and Human Welfare

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Ada Bozeman, whose essay "The Roots of the American Commitment to the Rights of Man" forms the longest contribution to the volume, is as rationally conservative as Jordan is intelligently liberal. Bozeman finds two incompatible elements in the genesis of the American faith in human rights. One stems from English common law with its accumulated safeguards against violations of personal security. The other is a "rights of man" doctrine according to which the foundations of liberty are not to be found in musty legal documents but in the bright book of Nature itself. Stimulated by the implications of this distinction, Bozeman directs her fire against "the preposterous dogma that every man is by nature virtuous and good and that all men are equal." Hers is the sacred rage, and charity forbids description of her closing application of her findings to the late Carter administration's human rights campaign. Her polemic throughout the essay is learned and brilliant.

All the same, one cannot help putting the book down with the thought that claims and counterclaims about human rights have a way of seeming almost irrelevant in a world so much of which today is ruled by the knife, scarred by violence and terrorism, guerrilla or state, drained by famine, starvation, and meaningless death. If a young girl is being forced into a brothel, Simone Weil said, she will not talk about her rights; it is a question of a cry from the heart.

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Rosefielde, Steven, ed. *World Communism at the Crossroads: Military Ascendancy, Political Economy and Human Welfare*. Boston: Martinus Nijhoff, 1980. 334pp.

Some Western authorities have stated that the Soviet Union might rate as a lesser-developed country if it were

nor for its vast and modern military establishment. Much the same is true of the rest of the "socialist community of states" across the globe, nearly all of which place a distinct emphasis on military power and internal security forces. Based on a series of guest lectures presented at the University of North Carolina during the 1976-77 academic year, this collection of essays was fully edited and updated by Professor Steven Rosefielde of the UNC Economics Department and clearly portrays the vast imbalance between military power and economic/social programs that has prevailed as a dominant historical characteristic of the national development of communist-controlled states over the past six decades.

The opening section, which focuses on communist military power, may be the strongest portion of this edited volume. All of the five essays are particularly high-quality contributions with special mention going to William T. Lee's "Soviet Nuclear Strategy and SALT" and the assessment of the prospects for Soviet military power in the 1980s by Professor Patrick Parker of the Naval Postgraduate School. Using a considerable array of Soviet source materials and official U.S. public documents, Lee makes a strong case for the closely integrated relationship between the current Soviet strategic nuclear force and its approaches to the recent SALT II negotiations. Professor Parker takes special note of the massive Soviet military growth and modernization over the past two decades and the increased projections of Soviet power and influence abroad since Angola as a direct result of the U.S.S.R.'s achievement of military "superpower" status.

The remaining trio of contributions are equally worthwhile. Professor Rosefielde's own detailed economic analysis of Soviet arms expenditures since 1960 has much merit, and a noted Western authority on post-1945 Soviet interventions abroad, Jiri Valenta of the Naval

Postgraduate School, offers a critical reappraisal of the 1975-76 Soviet-Cuban involvement in Angola in support of the late Agostino Neto's MPLA forces. Finally, Professor James Leutze of the UNC history faculty addresses the pressing requirement for a new NATO strategy, including a full reevaluation of tactical nuclear weapons policies, in the face of the huge, modern and offensively oriented Soviet/Warsaw Pact forces now confronting the Atlantic Alliance. If the editor sought to capture a fuller essence of dependence as a key trait of communist regimes on military power, however, he also might have included other essays on at least the current PRC military modernization program and the regional role of the SRV armed forces in Southeast Asia to achieve a wider frame of reference for his basic thematic premise.

The remaining two sections cover various communist regimes' economic development and human welfare programs and adequately maintain the volume's perception of the uneven development of this pair of key national power factors *vis à vis* military strength in most communist regimes. It is possible that several of the contributions may be somewhat specialized for many readers. Moreover, the choice of topical essays may be an overly diversified way to familiarize readers fully with the basic scope and dynamics of contemporary communist states' economic and social development programs. Notable exceptions are editor Rosefield's co-authored essay (with Henry Latané) contrasting socioeconomic models in the U.S.S.R. and the PRC, and the treatment of contemporary human rights efforts in the Soviet Union in the context of Soviet-American relations by Dimitri Simes and Aileen Masterson of the Georgetown University Center for Strategic Studies.

It is possible to fully endorse Professor Rosefield's concluding remarks that the volume furnishes "a better

understanding of why communist military ascendancy is a landmark event" in light of communism's manifest failure to achieve a humane, prosperous society anywhere it has ruled. While its contributions provide as many questions as answers, the volume makes an excellent case for both systemic military success and economic/social inadequacies among the world's communist regimes. For that reason it has much to offer, particularly in the military area, for observers of both the Soviet scene and international communism as a major movement.

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Snow, Donald M. *Nuclear Strategy in a Dynamic World*. University: University of Alabama Press, 1981. 242pp.

Available at a time in which the Reagan administration is wrestling with questions of using and controlling force, Snow's study of nuclear strategy is both timely and relevant. Discussions of such new strategic systems as the MX missile system, a new manned bomber, the *Trident* program, and cruise missiles are, or should be, directly dependent on the nuclear strategy of the United States. In this respect, Snow's study contributes to the current discussions of American strategic policy.

Snow begins his study with the premise that deterrence is the primary value of military forces, for "the modern world is one in which general war is truly to be feared and in which its prevention is arguably not only the first but the only true military objective." He then presents an overview of concept-organizing devices that have been used in the analysis of nuclear strategy such as game-theoretical devices (prisoner's dilemma and MINIMAX) and action-reaction phenomena. He concludes that strategic nuclear studies do not have an adequate conceptual framework and that the field has been dominated by