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## Changing Interpretations and New Sources of Naval History

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The remainder of the book provides valuable insights into the working of local voluntary action groups opposed to ELF in Wisconsin, Texas and Michigan, each at one time the Navy's preferred location for building the ELF antenna system. In each of these states voluntary action groups opposed to ELF came into being and successfully opposed the construction of ELF in their state. Klessig and Strite's conclusion is worth repeating to understand their intent in writing *ELF Odyssey*

Ultimately the Navy, or any other federal agency, is only responsive to Congress and the President. Ultimately the only power of citizens is political pressure applied to elected officials in the context of representative and constitutional government. That power can be shared most efficiently at the ballot box. It can be used most effectively if applied on election day, reapplied when public participation programs provide a formal opportunity and reapplied in every available informal setting.

It is important for those readers who may have supported the construction of the ELF system to note that all means of expressing opposition put forth by Klessig and Strite are entirely legal and appropriate in our system of government.

Throughout the book the authors urge citizens interested in environmental affairs to learn from the ELF experience how to organize to oppose other large projects with potentially undesirable environmental effects. Presumably these could be nonmilitary in nature as well, such as proposals to build large dams or drill for oil on public lands. But there is another side to this coin. The Navy and other agencies can also learn from *ELF Odyssey* how better to promote projects they feel are in the national interest. The authors note that, "Unlike some other agencies, the Navy was not accustomed to explaining its

operations or soliciting comments on them from citizens." I feel this is an accurate assessment of the Navy's overall approach to ELF, at least in Michigan. The Navy never really accepted the concept that local citizens should have much of a say on matters relating to national security. In the future, if the Navy and other governmental agencies can take deliberate steps to solicit and answer questions of interest to concerned local citizen groups, it will increase the likelihood of local acceptance of such projects as ELF. Indeed, the Department of Defense itself may not have to wait long to apply the lessons put forth in *ELF Odyssey*. The proposed land-based MX missile system will certainly arouse the concerted interest, if not outright opposition, of citizen and environmental action groups in whatever state is ultimately selected for its construction.

In summary, this is a useful book because it draws together in one volume a detailed history of the Navy's ELF programs, including an extensive set of references. It also shows what can be accomplished when highly motivated, well-organized local citizen action groups apply to elected officials through the legitimate means at their disposal.

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Love, Robert William, Jr., *et al.*, eds. *Changing Interpretations and New Sources of Naval History; Papers from the Third United States Naval Academy Naval History Symposium*. New York: Garland, 1980. 471pp.

The Naval History Symposium at the Naval Academy are justly famous for their fanfare. These 37 papers assembled by Professor Love and his coeditors clearly demonstrate, however, that the Third Naval History Symposium was a good deal more than outward show. For the most part avoiding strictly battle history, the

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contributors directed their attention to "those 'conditions' which define navies" and thus often dictate victory or defeat at sea. Somewhat less than half wrote on the U.S. Navy. To this reviewer, the more rewarding papers were commonly those dealing with non-American navies. Institutional history is especially well represented. Happily, most contributions are commendably short, straightforward, and fresh.

This review can only suggest the variety of materials in the volume by pointing to a few representative essays, necessarily omitting many of considerable merit. The tone is established by the fine initial essays by J. Richard Sheffley on Greek ship construction as revealed in nautical archeology and by Laurence Evans on the maritime logistics that provided the food essential to support the urban populations of the Roman Empire. A half dozen pieces deal with British and French naval institutional operations during the early modern period. Joel Best is enlightening on three types of English piracy 1550-1750. Peter G. Cornwell's research on training in the Japanese Navy and Daniel C. Evans' observations on recruitment of Japanese naval officers during the Meiji Period are important both for what they reveal about the Japanese Navy and for the comparisons that readers will inevitably draw with 19th century Western practices. Among the American chapters, Robert Seager's elucidation of Alfred Thayer Mahan's difficulties with Nelson's morals is an entertaining reading as it was hearing. Whereas Jeffrey Dorwart's appreciation of American naval intelligence in the New Navy includes a deft critique of Peter Karsten's *Naval Aristocracy*, John C. Reilly enthusiastically invites research in the little used naval attaché reports at the National Archives, and William Heimdahl and Geraldine Roberts review the recently opened records of the Pearl Harbor Liaison Office as sources on the Pearl Harbor

investigations. There are also authoritative observations on the influence of radio intelligence on the Battle of the Atlantic from British (Patrick Beesley), German (Jürgen Rohwer), and American (Kenneth A. Knowles) points of view.

Professor Love and his associates see the essays as a "benchmark" demonstrating the breadth and professionalism of naval historians today. They confirm that naval history is alive with new approaches and interpretations. Moreover, the variety of the materials notwithstanding, the essays often interplay with each other, providing sources of comparison, contrast, and continuity between the various naval services of different ages.

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Rothenberg, Morris. *The USSR and Africa: New Dimensions of Soviet Global Power (AISJ Monographs on International Affairs)*. Washington: Advanced International Studies Institute, 1980. 288pp.

Considering the intensive and persistent pattern of activities conducted by the Soviet Union and its surrogates across the vast African continent beginning with the Angolan conflict of 1975-1976, this work has particular value as a timely and incisive assessment of Soviet strategic goals and interests focused on that resource-rich and politically volatile region. A former U.S. Foreign Service Officer with diplomatic experience both in the U.S.S.R. and at Third World posts, Rothenberg contends that these post-1975 Soviet efforts in Africa represent the most sophisticated and multifaceted campaign mounted to date in furtherance of its global strategy to minimize or deny U.S. and Western interests in the Third World, while simultaneously accruing influence and advantage for its own policies among the world's lesser-developed countries. Just