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## The Soviet Navy 1941-1978

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offensive against the West. In highlighting the predominant post-1975 Soviet propensity to intervene in the internal and regional affairs of African and other Third World states with large contingents of surrogate military forces that are underwritten with considerable amounts of Soviet arms aid under the dubious guise of "proletarian internationalism," the author clearly sets forth the broadest possible bounds for this new Soviet challenge to both the West and the young nations of Africa. If he does stop short of offering any policy options, it becomes obvious that the United States and the nations of both Western Europe and Africa must cooperatively generate an innovative, dynamic set of programs that assure African development, while meeting and defeating this huge and sophisticated Soviet campaign. With extensive Soviet and regional source materials along with a strong array of useful tabular data, this volume is at once a timely and valuable analysis that deserves both careful reading and thoughtful consideration for its treatment of the massive Soviet offensive now underway against both the young and older nations of the free world.

JOSEPH E. THACH, JR.  
OASD (PA)

Smith, Myron J., Jr. *The Soviet Navy, 1941-1978: A Guide to Sources in English*, The War/Peace Bibliography Series, R.D. Burns, ed. Santa Barbara: ABC-Clío, 1980. 211pp.

Bibliographers, like translators, are insufficiently honored in our land. Both crafts involve a large measure of art and intellect; both perform an inestimable service; but both are, for the most part, taken for granted.

That I have bracketed the two together may seem curious as they require widely different talents, but the bibliographer, Myron Smith inevitably reminds us of the material in Russian

that we probably have not read.

The work at hand is exceptionally fine. A bibliography should be judged on completeness, accuracy, organization and usefulness. This one, on all counts, belongs in the first rank. In a random way of checking, I have not thought of a single article that is not listed and I have noticed several translations from Russian that I did not know were available in English; and there are many, many entries for articles that I did not know (some with titles I cannot understand such as "Castration Round and Tattletale Ships: Big Russian Cruisers Beefing Up Carriers," entry number 1371).

This bibliography, then, inspires confidence, which is a necessary function of bibliographies. As to the other functions, being handy and well organized, it also wins top honors. The entries are numbered so that they are easily found. They are organized into chapters with sensible subheadings so that no one can look up specific subjects, and they are indexed according to author so that one can look up one's friends. (In saying so, I just noticed that Leon Martel is missing, perhaps justified on the grounds that he wrote about the merchant fleet.)

Certainly that is all that a bibliography is required to do unless it is a critical bibliography, containing commentary by the author on the value and relevance of the entries. But in a book of this scope, that would be an impossible, and unwelcome, addition. This book, however, contains several delightful surprises. There is an article by Steve Kime at the beginning, written with his usual brilliance and insight, "The Soviet Navy, Present and Future." There is also a very helpful guide to research containing the most standard reference works for this sort of study. Each section is introduced nicely and briefly and there are appendixes, one of which contains a very useful brief listing of naval biographies. The latter is very helpful to those of us who need

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reassurance that Gorshkov really is 70 years old.

This is, altogether, a very competent job resulting in an admirable and very useful book that will certainly be needed in every library where research on military matters is performed. It will be valuable for many years to come and then we hope that Myron Smith will bring it up to date again for at the rate the articles and books are proliferating, we need someone keeping track. The author of this book has proved himself equal to the task.

ROBERT B. BATHURST  
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Till, Geoffrey, *Air Power and the Royal Navy, 1914-1945: A Historical Survey*. London: Jane's Publishing Company, 1979. 224pp.

There have been a number of operational histories of the Fleet Air Arm, but this is not one of them. Written by a faculty member at the British counterpart of the Naval War College, the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, this study is a serious historical analysis of the influence of aviation on the Royal Navy. Dr. Till's work is the result of careful research and expresses a balanced judgment based on a deep understanding of both technical matters and the broad strategic issues of the period. The basic problems that the author examines are centered around the questions why the Royal Navy was unable to develop fully her initial innovations in naval aviation and why her lead in this field was shortly overtaken by the American and Japanese Navies. In dealing with these questions, one can see the manner in which airpower affected the role of the navy in the defense of Britain, and in those terms one can see some of the fundamental issues in British defense policy.

In approaching his subject, Till has analyzed six broad subject areas: people, ships, aircraft, bureaucracy, battle

doctrine and war experience. He shows that the shortage of men in the Fleet Air Arm as compared to the U.S. Navy symbolized the extent to which Britain's war resources had been surpassed by 1945. In other areas, he sees a similar relationship. For example, the British carrier construction program and aircraft production emphasize the industrial disparity between Britain and America. In terms of bureaucracy, he shows that there was too little coordination among those responsible. The division of responsibility for naval aviation between the Air Ministry and the Admiralty created competition without the means to plan, to direct and to administer the development of aviation at sea. In the same period, British battle doctrine tended to be based on the traditional assumption that sea battles would be decided by the concentration of battleships. Tactics were developed for the Fleet Air Arm that emphasized the role of the carrier in this situation. The use of aircraft in other roles was not fully worked out in terms of tactics and training. Tactical manuals dealing with such alternatives were not fully completed or made available to pilots. Till's discussion of the development of naval aviation in combat is the shortest of his chapters. This is understandable in view of his desire to avoid an operational history. However, given the experience of the U.S. Navy in this area, one might have expected a longer discussion here. Certainly, the U.S. Navy's carrier tactics were largely developed in actual war operations, not during the interwar period. One gleans from his remarks that this was also true of British naval aviation, in its rapid development between the Norwegian campaign of 1940 and its performance later in the war. This aspect of development could have been more fully explored. The author opens with a detailed discussion of the naval and air aspects of the Norwegian campaign to show the effect of interwar planning on wartime