

1980

Yearbook on International Communist Affairs-1980

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PROFESSIONAL READING 121

detail and a puzzling confusion of differing interpretations.

Sharing this dilemma, David Maland, High Master of Manchester Grammar School in England, has labored with the problem of how to explain and to describe clearly to his pupils the most extensive war in European history before the French Revolution. His short book is a *tour de force* that is invaluable to specialists in the 17th century as well as to the general student of military history. The author states that his book is "merely an exercise in story-telling." Indeed, it lacks the arguments of a scholarly monograph and it fails to footnote, but the reader should not be put off by the author's modesty or the absence of academic appearances, Maland has provided a clear and unencumbered narrative that incorporates recent research and interpretations. By proceeding in this way, his deceptively simple approach has produced the best available narrative analysis of the war in English. The older works must now be left to specialists and to those who are interested in exploring personalities and the detailed descriptions of particular events.

Maland's narrative begins in 1590 and ends in 1660. His scope is European and is focused on the broad pattern of international relations and conflict between nations. The author's clear understanding of the interrelationship between strategic lines of communication, national aspirations, and the use of armed force will be particularly interesting to students of military affairs. Shifting from the traditional focus of the Thirty Years' War in Germany, Maland connects that struggle with the Eighty Years' War between Spain and the United Provinces, the rivalry between Sweden, Denmark and Poland for supremacy in the Baltic and the continuing strife between France and Spain, Bourbon and Habsburg. He explains the volatility of a number of events by showing their

relationship to the conflict between Spain and the Dutch. Specifically, he points out Spanish interest in protecting her land and sea lines of communication with the Netherlands and the Dutch determination to disrupt them while also safeguarding their own trade routes to the Baltic. When local problems and the ambitions of various princes touched upon these matters, they were quickly embroiled in a European-wide struggle.

Maland's succinct narrative and broad understanding of warfare in the context of international relations provides a solid framework on which to view the period. Beginning students who wish to have a clear narrative of the period as well as specialists who are grappling with the broad issues that lie behind their detailed work will find this small volume invaluable.

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Staar, Richard F., ed. *Yearbook on International Communist Affairs-1980*. Stanford: Hoover Institution Press, 1979. 486pp.

It is possible that 1979 marked a major crossroads for communism as an international movement. Beyond an overall atmosphere of ideological proliferation and diversity that has developed among the world's communist parties over the past two decades, armed conflict has emerged as a major means of political intercourse within the communist community of states. During 1979, warfare between rival communist regimes reached the highest intensity seen thus far with the month-long Sino-Vietnamese conflict and the ongoing Vietnamese campaign in Cambodia in the wake of its large-scale invasion during late 1978. Similarly, the trend towards overt military activism as a currently operative form of "fraternal support to friendly states and national liberation movements" continued

122 NAVAL WAR COLLEGE REVIEW

unabated last year with the massive Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the active presence of Cuban and East European surrogate forces throughout Africa and the Middle East, along with the steady flow of Soviet and East European armaments to the Third World and lesser communist states. Elsewhere, the further buildup of North Korean military forces, if relegated to the background by wider-reaching events surrounding the stormy Moscow-Beijing-Hanoi triangular relationship and the tense political situation in South Korea, represented still another example of communist regimes' heightened reliance on military power as a political instrument.

In view of this increased propensity towards "gunbarrel politics" among the communist regimes both toward one another and their noncommunist neighbors, the 1980 edition of the *Yearbook on International Communist Affairs* may rank among the best of the 14 Hoover Institution annuals published to date for its detailed coverage of the year just past. For the specialist and general reader alike, the *Yearbook* has a long and rich tradition as an authoritative reference work that offers in-depth assessments of the international and domestic activities of communist party organizations, whether in or out of power, across the globe. Because 1979 marked both a capstone year for major trends that emerged during the past decade and as an immediate prelude for the uncertain years ahead, this year's edition bears special value for the assessment of previous trends and recent events as possible portents for the future. Featuring its traditional by-country profiles of CP organizations and movements, as well as of the predominantly Soviet-controlled international front groups, the 1980 *Yearbook* is further enhanced by the addition of special sections on the Warsaw Treaty Organization and the

tance (CMEA) through which the Soviet Union has maintained a firm politicomilitary and economic grip over its East European allies and, more recently in CMEA, over Cuba and Vietnam. It is particularly interesting to note from the current *Yearbook* analysis that CMEA "observer" status also has been extended recently to "progressive" Third World client-states including Angola, Ethiopia and South Yemen, along with the communist governments of Laos and North Korea. Another section, reinstated in the 1979 volume after a protracted absence, provides comprehensive biographic data on selected communist figures of recent prominence. The 1980 edition, for example, includes treatments of Heng Samrin, leader of the new Vietnamese-sponsored regime in Cambodia, and Babrak Karmal, the "baggage train" Afghan head of state by virtue of the massive Soviet invasion of that nation this past December.

A traditional strength of the *Yearbook* lies in its excellent coverage of major CP organizations now in power, as in the U.S.S.R., mainland China and Eastern Europe but it also has reflected considerable analytical prowess in recent editions in its treatments of Marxist-Leninist groups and movements that have emerged in the lesser-developed countries of the Third World. While one might take issue with the stated criteria by which the pro-Soviet MPLA regime in Angola is omitted from *Yearbook* coverage, this year's edition continues that trend and the overall quality of its individual profiles on Third World CPs and national liberation movements may well represent a hidden analytical asset in this era of pronounced diversity and turbulence within the communist world. From a quantitative standpoint, the annual strength estimate of the world's communist parties should continue to provide current research value. Likewise, the select bibliography

PROFESSIONAL READING 123

of recent topical works is of definite assistance to both the professional and occasional researcher.

From its inception nearly a decade and a half ago, the *Yearbook* series has maintained an outstanding reputation as a thoroughly researched and clearly written appraisal of current communist affairs. The present edition is no exception and, with recent international trends and events as likely indicators for the 1980s, it is a uniquely valuable reference to better measure the probable change and continuity that will occur throughout the communist world in the decade ahead.

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OASD(PA)

Walsh, John Evangelist. *Night on Fire: The First Complete Account of John Paul Jones' Greatest Battle*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1978. 185pp.

Dillon, Richard. *We Have Met the Enemy: Oliver Hazard Perry: Wilderness Commodore*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1978. 231pp.

John Paul Jones and Oliver Hazard Perry are the outstanding American naval heroes of the Age of Sail. Jones' "I have not yet begun to fight" and Perry's "We have met the enemy and they are ours" epitomize the spirit of America and its fledgling Navy in their conflicts with Great Britain, then the "Sovereign of the Seas."

The reputations of both men rest largely on single battles. Off Flamborough Head Jones fought what is widely regarded as the most closely engaged and savage single-ship battle of the Age of Sail, while at Put-in-Bay Perry achieved a historically decisive victory. The story of each is well known, but certainly each bears further attention. Both commanders and their battles are well served by these new, popular histories.

In *Night on Fire*, Reader's Digest editor John Evangelist Walsh focuses

narrowly on the battle between *Bonhomme Richard* and *Serapis*, beginning with the morning of the engagement and closing with the sinking of *Richard* a day and a half afterward. In just under 100 pages he recounts in minute detail the ships' early maneuvering, their combat, and the immediate aftermath of battle. Walsh has studied all available sources and weaves them together to produce a vivid narrative of courage, death, and ultimate victory. He rightly stresses the critical importance of the men in the tops and Jones' wise decision to delay boarding *Serapis* until its tops and upper deck had been cleared of opposition. Walsh is equitable in his analysis of the controversial men involved. He is kinder to Pierre Landais and Richard Pearson than either Samuel Eliot Morison or Alfred Thayer Mahan without in any way disparaging Jones.

A series of diagrams make clear the complicated maneuvering of the ships and a final chapter analyzes the significance of the engagement. Appendixes list the dead and wounded on both sides and give helpful assessments of pertinent source materials. The result is the fullest, clearest, and most graphic account of what Admiral Morison has called a naval battle "the like of which has never been fought before or since."

Oliver Hazard Perry has not received the attention from either historians or novelists that has been accorded Jones though Richard Dillon believes he merits it. To Dillon, Perry is not just "the most important naval hero of 1812-13" and more deserving of "recall than the other worthies of his day," but "the true hero-patriot" and the man who "changed our history, our fare." With *We Have Met the Enemy*, Dillon, a San Francisco librarian, hopes to rescue Perry from "years of neglect by historians and controversy by biographers." As the author of more than a