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Autobiography of Rear Admiral Charles Wilkes, U.S. Navy, 1798-1877

Craig Symonds

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"Justice—Compensatory and Discriminative"—A thoughtful discussion of discrimination and reverse discrimination using Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* as a base.

"Private Rights and the Public Good"—An argument that the private rights and public good are not an either/or situation and that our traditional framework for analyzing them may be outmoded.

"On Privacy and Community"—Treats the terms privacy and community as related and attempts to define privacy in terms of community.

"Do Rocks Have Rights"—Interesting argument for environmental ethics and the recovery of our traditional ethical perspective.

"Living With Scarcity"—The problems of scarcity (hunger, pain, and deprivation) will not be solved by technology alone but the author offers a plan liberally injected with both ethics and technology, for coping with scarcity.

"The Technology of Life and Death"—Fascinating approach to the implications of the traditional definition of death and effect of some suggested changes on our society.

"Reflections on War, Utopias and Temporary Systems"—Calls for the concentration of society's energies on extending the institutions that elicit man's more noble qualities, some of which are found in war and not in utopia.

"The University and American Society"—Supports the tenets of liberal education and stresses the importance of the study of humanities in the context of the development of American education and its place in society today.

"Some Questions in General Education Today"—Discusses the dilemma of technical training versus education and the reproductive qualities that a liberal education imparts to a society. Marcus offers some suggestions to reduce the reparative nature of higher education.

In sum, there are some small comforts in the book. I think that it's a handy guide to looking at macropublic issues in a different, often unique manner. The comforts, however, are sufficiently small that their availability in the local library is sufficient.

JOHN P. MORSE
Lieutenant, U.S. Navy

Morgan, William J., et al., eds. *Autobiography of Rear Admiral Charles Wilkes, U.S. Navy, 1798-1877*. Washington: Naval History Division, 1978. 930pp.

The Naval History Division has published, with a minimum of editorial comment, the lengthy autobiography of Charles Wilkes, the officer who commanded the U.S. Exploring Expedition in 1838-1842, and who removed the Confederate Commissioners Mason and Slidell from the British packet steamer *Trent* in 1862. Both events were controversial then, and remain so today. But this newly available volume does not illuminate either event so well as it does the bizarre personality of Wilkes himself, who stands condemned by his own hand in these pages as petty, sanctimonious and tyrannical.

The best part of the book is Wilkes' account of his years as a midshipman in the old sailing navy of the 1820s and 30s. But as he progresses in rank, his account assumes more and more the character of a diatribe: his commanding officers were out to get him; the Secretary of the Navy was his enemy; all his subordinates were incompetent, mutinous, or both. What is surprising is not that Wilkes was twice court-martialed for his imperious activities when in command at sea, but that he was ever given a command at sea.

A recent volume by William Stanton entitled *The Great United States Exploring Expedition of 1838-1842* (Berkeley, 1975) in which Wilkes is portrayed as a stiff martinet is herein

afforded ample reinforcement. Wilkes writes that his lieutenants (many of whom later signed a testimonial against him) were "scum . . . mean and cowardly." But Wilkes' accounts of his own action provide more than sufficient grounds for their protests.

As for the Trent affair, which so nearly brought England into the American Civil War on behalf of the Confederacy, Wilkes has relatively little to say except that he believed "I had done nothing more than my duty and should do it again if placed under similar circumstances." As for the courts-martial that followed both incidents, Wilkes claims that Secretaries of the Navy Upshur and Welles were both incompetent scoundrels who drummed up charges against him out of jealousy and political partisanship. Though the courts were packed against him, he writes, he was able to overcome their prejudice because of the manifest virtue of his actions.

Much of the volume is filled with trivial travelogues of Wilkes' summer trips and family life, but the active duty portions provide an interesting view of this 19th century Captain Queeg.

CRAIG SYMONDS
U.S. Naval Academy

Overholt, William H., ed. *Asia's Nuclear Future*. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1977. 285pp.

In a world of perplexing problems, nuclear proliferation stands as one of the most perplexing. Replete with ethnocentric pitfalls, technical complexities and substantial dangers for global stability, the prospect of nuclear spread has challenged the thoughtful and the thoughtless alike. Perhaps even more distressing than the specter of "living in a nuclear-armed crowd," has been the proliferation of books and articles on the subject, many with only the saving grace that they evidence short half-lives. Fortunately this is not the

case with *Asia's Nuclear Future*, which proves to be a thoughtful book that enhances our understanding of this important issue, rather than merely adding to the din.

Edited by William Overholt of the Hudson Institute, *Asia's Nuclear Future* consists of seven chapters, two of which previously appeared as journal articles. The thematic thread for the volume is provided in the opening chapter by Lewis Dunn (also of Hudson) and Overholt. Eschewing the country-by-country study and the action-reaction dyad as appropriate frameworks for the study of proliferation, they proffer a new metaphor, the "nuclear proliferation chain." Dunn and Overholt argue: "the decision by the initial country to go nuclear triggers a proliferation chain encompassing anywhere from two to ten additional proliferation decisions." Thus, one chain includes India, Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Egypt, Syria, Libya, Israel, Brazil and Argentina.

While the "chain" metaphor offers great promise for briefing charts, it is hard to concede that an analytical breakthrough has occurred; the "discovery" seems to be that a state's decisions in the nuclear realm are unlikely to be ignored in the international milieu. Nonetheless, the explication of interrelationships is a useful and commendable enterprise that the interested reader will find informative. In a later chapter Dunn develops the "India, Pakistan, Iran . . ." chain; however, one would have hoped that the frugal contribution (15 pages) had been considerably expanded, given the enormity of the subject matter. Overholt's subsequent chapter on Eastern Asia is somewhat meatier, and he does provide interesting discussion of both the Korean and the Taiwanese cases. In both cases he concludes that nuclear weapons would be a rather poor second to the preferred "weapon"—continuing security ties with the United States. Overholt's analysis can only remind us that a precipitous