

1976

## Special Envoy to Churchill and Stalin, 1941-1946

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### Recommended Citation

Delaney, Robert F.; Harriman, Averell W.; and Elie, Abel (1976) "Special Envoy to Churchill and Stalin, 1941-1946," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 29 : No. 4 , Article 16.

Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol29/iss4/16>

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change have any influence on the use of power and force in the conduct of world affairs?

What political leaders and their legislative supporters implicitly assume or take for granted on these matters will largely determine the ultimate decision to use military force.

HENRY E. ECCLES  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)

Harriman, W. Averell and Elie Abel.  
*Special Envoy to Churchill and Stalin 1941-1946*. New York: Random House. 1975. 595pp.

With World War II now 31 years old and already into its third writing—the first flash histories, the serious studies including the beginnings of revisionism, and the current spate of works revealing dramatically the cryptological successes of the British in being able to read Hitlerian and Nazi General Staff traffic, there now appears a significant memoir from the thinning ranks of senior participants. Averell Harriman, a distinguished American by any measure, sets forth his experiences and views concerning the crucial wartime years during which he served as President Roosevelt's personal emissary first to Winston Churchill and later as U.S. Ambassador in Moscow where he spent as much time with Joseph Stalin as any American living or dead.

It is a story of *noblesse oblige*, of service, of dedication to the commonweal. It is also the story of a patriot who quietly cared and who was not afraid of dissent or controversy. There is one immediately apparent lesson in Harriman's memoir. He was no bureaucrat. He walked the world stage.

The outline of the memoirs covers familiar terrain—the era of the late 1930's and the war. What is significant in this well-written account by Columbia Journalism School Dean Elie Abel is the Harriman insight. He covers with precision his "Mission to Moscow" with

the suspicions, the delays, the grudging respect shared by Stalin and Harriman for each other. There are excellent chapters on the Teheran, Yalta, and Potsdam Conferences. There is a direct challenge throughout to the revisionist theories on the cold war. Harriman's perceptions are, of course, those of America's wartime leadership, and through his eyes one sees the emerging and tragic confrontation of East and West.

The book must stand as a basic reference on the period. Not only do we have Harriman's memoranda and notes, but the book is supported by quite adequate research and documentation. This last of the great World War II memoirs should be of use and interest to all students of strategy and diplomacy.

ROBERT F. DELANEY  
Naval War College

Healy, Davis. *Gunboat Diplomacy in the Wilson Era—The U.S. Navy in Haiti, 1915-1916*. Madison, The University of Wisconsin Press, 1976. 268pp.

On 28 July 1915, American marines and bluejackets from the armored cruiser *Washington* were landed in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, for the purpose of "preventing further rioting and for the protection of foreigners' lives and property and to preserve order." Thus began a military occupation of nearly 20 years duration.

It is impossible to justify or to understand this action by the administration of Woodrow Wilson without adequate knowledge of those years of Haitian history immediately preceding the intervention, years known by the Haitians themselves as the "*Epoque des Gouvernements Ephemeres*"—the Era of the Ephemeral Governments. On 17 December 1908, Antoine Simon was elected to the Presidency for the constitutional term of 7 years. In the 7 years following that election, no fewer than