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The Arms Trade with the Third World

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Moreover, the large percentage of volunteers in the Civil War navy, especially on the western rivers, makes it difficult to keep the history of the volunteer navy distinct from that of the navy proper. Stivers therefore contents himself with describing some of the more heroic exploits of the naval forces and then relating the fact that x percent of the participants were "naval reservists," i.e., volunteers.

It is praiseworthy that Stivers has recognized the inestimable contributions of America's irregular naval forces during the Nation's first century, and he is to be commended for challenging A.T. Mahan's claim that the privateers did not affect the outcome of the War of 1812, an assertion which British records clearly indicate was false. But it is unfortunate that his desire to "provide some enlightenment for those politicians and regular navy officers who are every day struggling with policy concerning the U.S. Naval Reserve" led him to adopt a lobbyist's subjectivity toward his subject.

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Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. *The Arms Trade with the Third World*. Rev. and abr. ed. New York: Holmes and Meier, 1975. 362pp.

This book is an impressive collection of facts and figures regarding the sale of arms to the Third World. It is mistitled because its main concern is only with trade involving major weapons and not small arms. Major weapons are defined as aircraft, naval vessels, armored fighting vehicles, and missiles. Consideration of small arms was omitted because "information about the transfers of these weapons is fragmentary and unreliable." Unfortunately, Third World military capabilities and limitations cannot be properly considered without data on the small arms trade.

However, the magnitude of this deficiency in the treatment of the topic is quantified for those who find solace in numbers. The trade figures for major weapons "cover just under half the total trade in military equipment" with Third World nations. If one still cares to pursue the topic of "Arms Trade," one will find an interesting and informative discussion on less than half the arms traded with the Third World.

Nevertheless, the book is well organized and lends itself to ready reference. Part I identifies the general features of arms trade and provides an introduction and overview of what follows. This is perhaps the most informative section. Realizing the book's overall limitations, Part I will suffice for those whose time is limited.

Part II identifies the major suppliers of arms to the Third World; namely, the United States, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, France, and the People's Republic of China. This part also examines the quality and quantity of arms traded, current trends of sales, and speculates on future possibilities and consequences. No conclusions are reached.

Part III examines the Third World recipients of the arms sales. The examination is organized along geographical lines as follows: Far East, Indian Subcontinent, Middle East and North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and South Africa, and Latin America. This part also treats domestic defense production in the Third World countries, for what it is worth.

Part IV discusses control of the arms trade and offers proposals concerning such trade. It is a recitation of suggested measures for the regulation of the arms trade since the end of the 19th century. The supporting discussion provides nothing new and the conclusions have all been offered before. What is not addressed is the inevitability of the problem. Until the basic economic principle of supply and demand is

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altered, trade, including arms, will continue.

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Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. *World Armaments and Disarmament, SIPRI Yearbook 1975*. Cambridge, Mass.: and London: MIT Press; Stockholm: Almqvist & Wiksell International, 1975. 618pp.

SIPRI is still a relative newcomer in the field of armaments and disarmament reporting. Their yearbooks go back to 1968-69, and since 1972 there has been an annual volume, six for the series so far.

The SIPRI Yearbook is at least as valuable to the professional military man as the International Institute for Strategic Studies' *Military Balance*. In some dimensions, explained below, it is even more useful.

Massive in size, the book is divided into part I, the year in review; part II, developments in world armaments; part III, advances in weapon technology; and part IV, developments in arms control and disarmament. Each part has chapters, replete with appendices and tables and diagrams, including much valuable statistical data and original documentation. For example, the recent UN agreed definition of aggression is reprinted as appendix 14F. Difficult-to-come-by data is given in profusion, as in appendix 15K which gives a summary of all important multilateral agreements on disarmament and a list of states that have signed and ratified each. A tabular list of all nuclear explosions between 1945 and 1974 is given at appendix 15B.

But, if that were all, it would not make the SIPRI Yearbook outstanding and unique—as it surely is for certain of its characteristics. Turn for example to chapter 11, entitled "Long-range Cruise Missiles," pp. 311-338. Here is not only an elaborate description of the tech-

nology behind cruise missile development but a sophisticated discussion of how miniaturization has

made possible what is essentially a new method for the accurate delivery of tactical or strategic weapons (conventional or nuclear) over long ranges, since cruise missiles can now be fitted with terminal guidance based on terrain matching and recognition, and remotely piloted vehicles with wide-band jam-proof communication links.

Then "terrain matching" and each of these other parts of the new developments is explained in full detail and in simple language. Because this kind of full exposition is given throughout the book, it is a very valuable text key to all kinds of military technology. The discussion of satellite photography and the degree of resolution obtainable is at a level far above the usual literature—and the book is full of such things.

Despite the hefty price, this book is well worth the price to any military man with a lively sense of intellectual curiosity or a need to know, on an informed basis, the most recent facts and figures on world weapons. Of course it has a bias—against arms and for disarmament. But that bias in no way interferes with its professional sense of what is relevant.

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Wegener, Edward. *The Soviet Naval Offensive*. Annapolis, Md.: United States Naval Institute, 1975. 134pp.

The key to this concise and orderly study is found in the first sentence of the preface: "The spectacular naval armament of the Soviet Union since World War II is an event of global political significance." The Soviet naval expansion is indeed spectacular; it is clearly global; and it gives every indication that it will, in retrospect, have been of transcendent political significance.