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## America's Stake in Asia

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Middleton, Drew. *America's Stake in Asia*. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1968. 240 p.

Drew Middleton, in his Introduction, states:

To show what Americans are doing in Asia, what the Asians themselves are doing, and to give some picture of the problems that face the continent are the purposes of this book. The opinions, of course, are my own. I am happy to say they bear no relation to those of the editorial page of *The New York Times*.

It was this last statement that interested the reviewer sufficiently to select this book for evaluation. Within the limits of the above stated purpose, Mr. Middleton has succeeded admirably in considering problems and prospects throughout the area. He discusses Japan, Vietnam, Laos, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Burma, India, Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, the Philippines, and Indonesia. Some get relatively brief treatment, and others receive more thorough examination. There is no statement on Formosa. Although no chapter is devoted specifically to Communist China, her influence and threat are always considered.

The author's thesis is that the United States is involved in Asia whether she likes it or not; hence, it is not so much a question as to why she is involved as it is of what she will do there. The main problems are, on the one hand, the constantly increasing numbers of people and how to supply their food requirements, and, on the other hand, the threat that Communist China poses. Mr. Middleton sees the latter as the principal danger—one that can be greatly increased if the first is not solved. He reviews the traditional Maoist theory of using rural bases to encircle cities and then projects this to a global basis, wherein Western Europe and North America may be considered as the cities, while Latin America, Africa, and Asia are the rural areas. Of course, the United States is now actively engaged in

Asia. To thwart Chinese designs, the author advocates that first, America must prevent a North Vietnamese victory and then must improve economies in the Asian area to the point where governments and people are in a position to resist Chinese subversion. A major hazard appears to be an American isolationist sentiment toward Asia. Mr. Middleton submits that the United States, almost by default, is the only nation that can be of significant help and that she should be selective in her assistance and in the governments to which her aid should be extended, and not offer across-the-board assistance to any and all. Also of critical concern in that portion of the world is the Kashmir issue, which the author maintains has the potential for disaster in Asia. The United States, if only in her own interest, must make sincere efforts to resolve this problem. The book is well written, informative, and valuable to an understanding of U.S. interests in Asia. Mr. Middleton has indeed taken a stand apart from the editorial page of *The New York Times*.

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Robinson, Donald B., comp. *The Dirty Wars; Guerrilla Actions and Other Forms of Unconventional Warfare*. New York: Delacorte Press, 1968. 356 p.

This collection of articles, dispatches, and essays presents a solid source of material on guerrilla warfare and those involved in the suffering, heartbreak, successes, and failures of this most difficult and dirty form of fighting. There are no dry theories here, no charts, nor statistics. In compiling this volume, Donald Robinson has drawn no definitive limit as to what constitutes guerrilla and unconventional war. He obviously knows his subject well enough to understand that varied environments, political situations, and human attitudes tend to defy definition and that the