

1969

Book Review

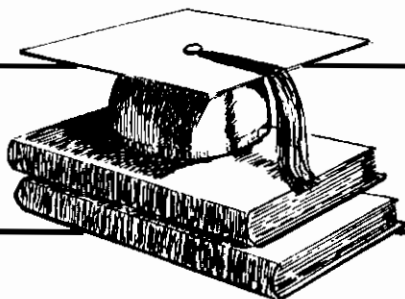
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Recommended Citation

War College, The U.S. Naval (1969) "Book Review," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 22 : No. 8 , Article 10.
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PROFESSIONAL READING

Uhlig, Frank, Jr., ed. *1969 Naval Review*. Annapolis Md.: United States Naval Institute, 1969. 478p.

The 1969 edition of the *Naval Review*, published annually by the United States Naval Institute, compiles many essays written by highly qualified men on innumerable topics germane to naval affairs. Each article is self-contained, in and of itself, though naturally many are related to each other by virtue of their common ground, maritime and naval affairs.

Categorizing these essays and articles, the breakdown of subjects falls into the following topical areas: geographic maritime areas; merchant marine; oceanography; in-depth study of specific type ships or aircraft; counterinsurgency; and general naval affairs.

Geographic maritime areas. Three areas are specifically addressed—the Baltic and Danish Straits; the Mediterranean; and Vietnam and its surrounding waters. The article on the Baltic and Danish Straits, written by Rear Adm. Edward Wegener, FGN (Ret.) formerly Commander NATO Naval Forces Baltic, discusses the area from the standpoint of its strategic significance and role in Soviet and NATO strategies. Capt. Stephen W. Roskill, RN, (Ret.) analyzes the Mediterranean, with particular attention on how each of the littoral Mediterranean countries influences Mediterranean strategies.

Vietnam is the subject of several articles, each with a different

perspective. Capt. W.C. Wells, USN, who commanded the first Riverine Assault Force during its first year in combat, authors an article on river and riverine warfare in Vietnam, with special attention to the Mekong Delta Mobile Riverine Force—its origin and operations. The machinations of the Naval Support Activity, Saigon, its growth and operations, 1966-68, are discussed by Capt. Herbert T. King, USN, first commander of the activity. The operations of the Marine Corps in Vietnam during 1967 are handled in great detail, battle by battle, by Brig. Gen. Edwin H. Simmons, USMC. Chronological and statistical data on Vietnam is to be found in two other articles, "U.S. Naval Operations Against North Vietnam, August 1964-November 1968" and "1967 Seventh Fleet Summary."

Merchant Marine. The sometimes overlooked arm of seapower, the merchant marine, is treated specifically by two articles. Ran Hettena, Vice President of Maritime Overseas Corporation, writes of the U.S. tanker industry, its structure and performance. Also, the *Review* has reprinted in toto the Maritime Administration's pamphlet, "The Soviet Merchant Marine" (1967), one of the most valuable current ready references on the Soviet fleet, and a well developed analysis of the implications of this burgeoning fleet for U.S. maritime policy.

Oceanography. The place of oceanography in today's navy; why it is

important today; its current programs and projects (including the Deep Submergence Systems Projects; oceanographic ships, equipment, and personnel are the topics of an article by the Oceanographer of the Navy, Rear Adm. O.D. Waters, Jr., USN. Another article, by Capt. George Bond, MC, USN delves into the Man-in-the-Sea Program, its mission, structure, manpower, and associated hardware.

In-depth study of specific type of ships or aircraft. Under this heading there are two essays. Comdr. Keith B. Schumacher, USCG, writes of the role of the icebreaker in seapower today; his essay includes discussion of past and present engineering studies regarding U.S. icebreakers and the expanding need for this type of ship. The developments and problems in carrier-based attack aircraft are discussed by Capt. C.O. Holmquist, USN. Captain Holmquist traces the history of these aircraft from the days of the general purpose attack planes (Martin AM-1 Mauler, Douglas AD-1 Skyraider) to the jet light attack aircraft (A-4, A-6). He warns the reader that "...Unless we reverse the trend toward increasingly complex and expensive aircraft, we might well price ourselves out of business in attack aviation."

Counterinsurgency. The above-mentioned article on riverine warfare as well as one on the Indonesian confron-

tation by Maj. General J.L. Moulton, Royal Marines, (Ret.), describe some of the problem areas relating to counterinsurgency from the maritime point of view.

General naval affairs. A chronological tabling of all the significant naval and maritime events from 1 July 1967 to 30 June 1968 and a general study of maritime affairs in the 1956-67 decade are submitted by Lt. Harold S. Torrance, USN, and Rear Adm. John D. Hayes, USN, (Ret.), respectively. The Hayes article looks at these years with an historical and geographical perspective and includes what appears to be a real sense of personal concern about the future of U.S. maritime affairs. Also to be included under this heading is a reprint of Secretary of Defense McNamara's "Statement before the Senate Armed Services Committee on the FY 1969-70 Defense Program and 1969 Defense Budget."

The 1969 *Review* is similar to past editions in that it is a fine contribution to the literature pertaining to naval affairs and presents a compendium of reference material in this field. The wide variety of subjects under discussion, most of which are written with imagination, scholarship, and personal experience, should be most worthy of reading by the student of naval matters.

B.F. COYE
Lieutenant, U.S. Navy

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