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## The Age of Discontinuity

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record of marine participation in these engagements, see Clyde H. Metcalf's *A History of the United States Marine Corps*, New York: Putnam's, 1939; or R.D. Heinl's *Soldiers of the Sea*, Annapolis, Md.: U.S. Naval Institute, 1962.

Although some historians may find fault with the author's lack of footnotes, his documentation in the bibliographic notes and the valuable material contained in the appendices more than compensate for this slight omission. The only additional comment that might be made about the material presented by Professor Bauer concerns the quality of the maps included in the text. This may be a personal preference, but more detailed maps would help the reader to better understand the operational situations that confronted the squadron commanders.

*Surfboats and Horse Marines* is an impressive research into the little publicized naval operations of the Mexican War and should prove useful to the student of naval history in the areas of management, logistics, and amphibious warfare. In addition, this publication supplies excellent reading for the armchair sailor or casual reader who enjoys sagas of the sea.

W.S. PULLAR, JR.  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps

Beihman, Arnold. *The "Other" State Department*. New York: Basic Books, 1968. 221p.

This work is a study of the United States Mission to the United Nations (USUN) and its relationship to the State Department and to the United Nations organization. On the organizational wiring diagram, USUN is at the same level as other diplomatic missions throughout the world and, like them, presumably receives policy guidance and orders from the Secretary of State. Such policy guidance is the particular concern of the State Department's Bureau of International Organization Affairs under

an Assistant Secretary. However, the Assistant Secretary is, of course, hardly in a position to do much guiding because the man he wishes to guide has Cabinet rank and is therefore on a level with the Assistant Secretary's own boss two echelons above. The main thrust of Mr. Beihman's well-reasoned and documented thesis is that the USUN is in a unique and powerful position and is not necessarily responsive to the wishes of the Secretary of State and his departmental officials. Many instances are cited where the policy pursued by the USUN has been openly conflicting with that of the State Department. One of the major reasons for this state of affairs, the author feels, is that the USUN Chief has always been a man of national eminence, with his own political constituency. He has never been a career Foreign Service Officer—that is, until now. One might conjecture that in his appointment of career diplomat Charles Yost as Ambassador to the UN, President Nixon has taken heed of Mr. Beihman's argument.

G.H. WINSLOW  
Commander, U.S. Navy

Drueker, Peter F. *The Age of Discontinuity*. New York: Harper & Row, 1968. 394p.

Professor Drueker, in this very interesting and readable book, has attempted to identify and discuss the discontinuities which are likely to mold and shape the near future, the closing decades of the 20th century. He claims no gift of prophecy, however, only forecasting the probable changes that today's trends indicate.

The author discusses the major discontinuities in four areas: new technologies, major changes in the world's economy, the concentration of power in organizations, and the universe of learning and knowledge. In the first area—technologies—Mr. Drueker claims that the three major fields of activity that

powered the tremendous growth of Western (and Japanese) industry in the last 20 years—agriculture, steel, and automobiles—are mature, if not stagnant. They may continue to prosper, but they will not provide the impetus for continued economic development. In their place, the author sees four new mushrooming spheres: the information industry, with the computer as its core; the oceans; materials; and megalopolis, or the technologies of providing services for metropolitan areas. The shift from an international to a truly world economy is the subject of this book's second part. The awareness of most of the peoples of the world of the "good things of life" has led to the establishment of one common set of economic values and preferences, regardless of economic condition or political status. The author devotes considerable discussion to the impact that this change in standard of values is having, and will have, on existing economic institutions and policies. The growth of "institutions" (government, business, social, and church), their current and future influence on society, and recent disenchantment and revolt against them are the concern of part Three of this treatise. The fourth, and—by the author's account—most important, change is the growth of knowledge and the ascendancy of knowledge as the central "factor of production" in America's advanced, developing economy. The knowledge industries, which now account for one-third of the U.S. gross national product, will within 10 years account for one-half of a much larger GNP. The changing educational standards that have been a part of this knowledge explosion are explained and criticized in detail by Professor Drucker.

This is a highly informative and interesting book, with the author drawing some strong and controversial conclusions. Most of these conclusions are backed by persuasive argument, if not by fact, and in this respect the reader

will be forced to do some serious thinking about what he has read. The book is highly recommended to anyone who is interested in how the changes of today may affect life tomorrow.

D.J. KERSHAW  
Commander, U.S. Navy

Fall, Bernard B. *Anatomy of a Crisis*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1969. 283p.

The full title of the book by Mr. Fall is *Anatomy of a Crisis; the Laotian Crisis of 1960-61*. In the process of dissecting the Laotian crisis, the author has left a very bloody cadaver that this reader found a bit unsightly. Some portions of the cadaver are easily recognizable, having only a few clean wounds; such areas, unfortunately, are few. Most of the remains are cruelly crossed with a mass of ugly gashes made with tools of all degrees of sharpness and size and made for unfathomable reasons. The author begins his autopsy in the French colonial period and traces the political misfortunes of Laos through the second Geneva Accord of 1961. As he wields his scalpel, knife, and axe, he seems anything but consistent to the reviewer. In their dealings with the French and the North Vietnamese and at the conference tables of Geneva in 1954, Mr. Fall invests the Laotians with acumen and diplomatic skills, but from that point on all Laotian diplomats appear as graft-ridden power grabbers, with only the narrowest of viewpoints. The Laotian fighting man, according to the author, fought bravely and with valor against the Japanese of World War II and against the North Vietnamese in the 1950's. After this time, without "good leadership" (presumably French leadership) he has never again attained the same levels of bravery or dedication. The most easily identifiable portion of the cadaver is the theme of American failure in Laos. Here his strokes are deep and clear. To say