

1968

Stauffenberg

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contributes to interesting and informative reading.

R. A. YOUNG
Commander, U.S. Navy

Kramarz, Joachim. *Stauffenberg*. New York: Macmillan, 1967. 255 p.

This is the story of Claus Graf (Count von Stauffenberg) who, by most accounts, was the architect of the 20 July 1944 attempt on Hitler's life. Although there were many others actively engaged in the challenge to Hitler's entrenched dictatorship, Stauffenberg seems to have been the link between all sections of this particular plot. Someone once noted that a properly documented biographical study of Claus von Stauffenberg would provide a valuable contribution to history, and this is the author's attempt to fill this need. Mr. Kramarz was handicapped by the lack of Stauffenberg's personal papers, since they were confiscated by the Gestapo immediately after his ill-fated attempt on Hitler's life. Consequently, much of his research was devoted to conversations and interviews with persons who had intimate knowledge of the events leading to the placement of the bomb by Stauffenberg in the room where Hitler was being briefed by his staff. The author notes that after the failure of the bomb plot many worthy Germans cast the blame for the disaster on Stauffenberg. This book is his attempt to restore Stauffenberg to what Kramarz believes to be his rightful place in German history.

The conclusion is that Stauffenberg acted in response to obligations, love of his country, responsibility of his profession, and conscience born of his Christian convictions. This book has only limited value to the general reader. Although the author has done much to recreate Stauffenberg's life and his part in the attempted coup d'état, the average American reader will probably feel that his time could have been put to

better use. In fairness, it must be admitted that this book, no doubt, fills a need for German readers who are more closely linked to their own history.

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Lerche, Charles O. *Last Chance in Europe*. Chicago: Quadrangle Books, 1967. 221 p.

Last Chance in Europe is an attempt to analyze the underlying reasons for the decline in friendly relations between the Europeans and Americans. The author endeavors to bring the primary attention of American policymakers back to Europe. Periods of neglect of European orientation, such as the current Vietnamese war, result in separation between American and European unity. Mr. Lerche had extensive experience in European affairs and points out that the political scene in Europe, as viewed from Europe, is vastly different from that viewed from Washington. The image of Europe held by Americans is 20 years behind the times. He perceives Europe as a great area of economic expansion and capacity, with strong materialistic overtones, coming again in the political field. The Iron Curtain has eroded, and Europe is no longer divided. The author foresees that the only road for American policy is the establishment of a political partnership between the United States and Europe. This replaces the present concept of American leadership in Europe. This partnership would revamp or replace NATO with a much more limited organization having independent foreign policies for its members.

This book is not recommended as required reading. However, it is interesting to find a proposed solution to the current European problems.

W. W. BIGLER
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