

1968

China: Emerging World Power

J. V. Cox
U.S. Marine Corps

Victor P. Petrov

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review>

Recommended Citation

Cox, J. V. and Petrov, Victor P. (1968) "China: Emerging World Power," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 21 : No. 3 , Article 20.
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol21/iss3/20>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Naval War College Review by an authorized editor of U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu.

McCuen, John J. *The Art of Counter-Revolutionary War*. London: Faber and Faber, 1966. 349 p.

The Art of Counter-Revolutionary War is, without a doubt, one of the most illustrative and perspicuous books that the reviewer has read on the subject. The author hypothesizes that the solution to the problem of defeating revolutionary warfare is the application of its strategy and principles in reverse. In developing this hypothesis he analyzes the revolutionary warfare strategy used in China, Greece, Malaya, the Philippines, Indochina, Algeria, and Cuba. From this analysis he postulates a revolutionary warfare strategy which breaks down into four clear, well-defined phases: organization, terrorism, guerrilla warfare, and mobilization. The use of such phases, he feels, is intrinsic in studying, discussion, and planning counter-revolutionary warfare strategy and tactics because each implies certain military, political, and psychological imperatives. He further identifies five strategic principles of revolutionary warfare that were repeatedly used in the strategies he studied: preserving oneself and annihilating the enemy, establishing strategic bases, mobilizing the masses, seeking outside support, and unifying the effort. There were also a number of tactical principles which were vital, such as initiative, intelligence, mobility, and surprise without which revolutionary operations cannot succeed. This is considered to be an outstanding book. It has the added advantage of having a selected bibliography at the end of each chapter, noting what the writer considers to be the best material now available on the subject matter. *The Art of Counter-Revolutionary War* is highly recommended reading for all military personnel.

R. N. PETERSON
Commander, U.S. Navy

Neumann, William L. *After Victory*. New York: Harper & Row, 1967. 212 p.

After Victory is a short, well-written, and readable book. It is the story of Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin and their immediate successors in making the peace after World War II. As the author points out, this effort seems to have failed. This failure, as Mr. Neumann tells the story, was due to the fallibility of these men and the national and international systems with which they worked. The tasks that faced these men are shown in all their baffling enormity by the author. As if the difficulties were not almost insurmountable, President Roosevelt, this book charges, through his arrogance, pettiness, and shallow understanding of the problems managed to bungle a good many of the issues, to the utter frustration of Mr. Churchill and sometimes to the delight of Stalin. If the author's facts are authentic, this book could be considered a most objective and realistic account of this period. Unfortunately, he does not document any of his material.

J. W. COTTON, JR.
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Air Force

Petrov, Victor P. *China: Emerging World Power*. Princeton, N.J.: Van Nostrand, 1967. 138 p.

With brevity and clarity this book examines Communist China from an economic standpoint; its intent is to inform the reader of China's potential as a major industrial power. Many prior students of China's economy doubted that she was capable of becoming a world power because of serious deficiencies in critical raw materials and natural resources. It is this aspect that the author addresses in his book. Mr. Petrov carefully analyzes a number of conditions from the economic spec-

trum that will influence or determine whether or not China is to emerge as a strong world nation. He stresses topographic and climatic conditions and population spread as putting certain restrictions on agricultural production. He describes improvements in China's transportation system, waterways, highways, airways, and especially railways. One of the most ambitious plans of the Communist Chinese is the construction of huge dams on the Yellow and Yangtze Rivers for flood control, irrigation, and hydroelectric power.

Perhaps the author's most important contribution to the question of China's potential is his close examination of natural resources and raw materials in respect to their availability and accessibility for use. Petrov explores deeply the expansion of heavy industry in terms of labor force, technological force, and management, and he discusses efforts to relocate industry to the interior. This industrialization of the Chinese interior has a political purpose also: to assimilate minority groups that are actually the majority in the remote regions into the Chinese society.

The author concludes that in spite of withdrawal of Soviet assistance which has slowed down economic expansion and the losing race of agricultural production to population rise China has all the "prerequisites" for becoming a "have" nation and will emerge as a leading — perhaps dominating — force in the Far East.

The book is highly recommended for a quick, easy appraisal of Communist China's economic potential.

J. V. COX
Major, U.S. Marine Corps

Petrov, Richard. *Across the Top of Russia*. New York: McKay, 1967. 374 p.

This book is a narrative of the abortive attempt by the U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker *Northwind* to transit the historic Northeast Passage in the summer of 1965. This was the first serious effort by the United States to send one of her vessels through the route which traverses the entire northern coastline of the Soviet Union. However, in 1965 (and more recently in 1967), the American expedition was turned back, not by the treacherous icefields of the Arctic, but by even more formidable diplomatic and political obstacles.

The author of *Across the Top of Russia* was a television news writer for the National Broadcasting Company who resigned his job to join *Northwind* as a free-lance writer for *The New York Times*. His personal account of the icebreaker's assault on the Northeast Passage is as interesting and easily readable as an adventure novel. Throughout the book, Mr. Petrov compares the progress of *Northwind's* journey to that of earlier Arctic explorations, from Sir Hugh Willoughby's expedition seeking the Northeast Passage in 1553 until A. E. Nordenskjöld, the great Swedish explorer, became the first navigator to make it through in 1878. The routine voyage of *Northwind* seems somewhat dull by comparison. As a scientific expedition, *Northwind's* cruise attained significant results in compiling an impressive body of oceanographic data from the northern Barents and Kara Seas. Mr. Petrov contends, however, that, in spite of the accomplishments of the expedition, *Northwind's* failure to traverse the Northeast Passage must be considered a major diplomatic defeat for the United States, because "In the year 1965, the Soviet Union objected to an American vessel making the voyage from one great ocean of the world to another, and the United States Government bowed to that objection." The