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Across the Top of Russia

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U.S. Navy

Richard Petrow

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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. Petrow 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

Petrow, 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. Petrow 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. Nordenskjold, 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. Petrow 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

book reflects the author's keen disappointment in the unwillingness of the world's greatest sea power to insist on its right to free passage of the high seas.

J. E. ARNOLD
Commander, U.S. Navy

Reed, Douglas. *The Battle for Rhodesia*.
New York: Devin-Adair, 1967.
150 p.

This book by Britisher Douglas Reed, author, world traveler, and former foreign correspondent for the London *Times*, propounds a portion of the brief for Mr. Ian Smith and Smith's Rhodesian Government. In so doing, Reed tends to overstate the case (which, when alternatives are examined, has a good deal that is meritorious), to weave selected facts and irrelevant data into his book, to ignore conditions of censorship, detention, and restriction of political activity, and to befog a portion of the problem. Even so, many of his conclusions must be, in the main, considered to be accurate and cause for apprehension. This book has much in it for the reader who believes that the Belgians pulled out of the Belgian Congo too abruptly; that the wholesale admission of many African tribes as nations into the United Nations was less than wise; that most of the governments of newly emerging black nations in Africa have more often than not been established by means other than democratic, remained dictatorial and brutal by American standards, ignored the rule of law, and maintained their political power out of a barrel of a gun; that the will, spirit, and intelligence that enabled Britannia to rule the waves has been generally dissipated since World War II, and, with the exception of Churchill, the United Kingdom has displayed politicians but no statesmen; that both the United States and the United Kingdom

have tended to follow their "Liberals" in backing the Moscow-Peking-Havana-trained terrorists in Africa south of the Sahara; that stability and order in a community are valued ingredients for permanent progress in any nation; that Rhodesia's case in the world press has been ineptly told, often purposely; that the United States has backed Prime Minister Wilson for unclear reasons of inadequate foundation; and that the United States needs to reexamine and alter her Rhodesian policy. With the above in mind, this book is recommended as a balance to much of the material found in today's mass media which attacks Ian Smith's Rhodesian Government. Truth and the path toward an improved community life for all those living in Rhodesia must lie somewhere in between the two positions.

B. E. KEITH
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps

Robinson, Edgar E., et al. *Powers of the President in Foreign Affairs*. San Francisco: Commonwealth Club of California, 1966. 279 p.

Powers of the President in Foreign Affairs is a research study commissioned by the Board of Governors of the Commonwealth Club of California. The Chairman states in the Foreword that in this exciting and often bewildering world the people of many nations have looked to the United States for leadership in international affairs; and, in turn, the people of the United States have generally looked to their President to furnish the inspiration and direction for that leadership. In this setting, two questions are of transcendent importance and interest:

1. What is the extent of the power that has been conferred upon the President of the United States? and