The Truman Presidency

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Canadian struggle to maintain national identity and independence, is stressed. In developing the theme, the divergent paths taken by the two North American countries in achieving nationhood are examined, in addition to the positions of the nations on current major world issues. The area which probably causes the most friction between the two nations, American economic influence in Canada, comprises the major part of the book. Other problem areas, including continental defense, NATO, control of nuclear weapons, and the general ignorance of Americans about Canada, are presented.

Perhaps the greatest value of the book lies in its analysis of the problems between the two nations and the origins of these problems. The fact that the problems are recognized by the leaders of the nations combined with the unique border arrangement between the two countries, indicates that the harmonious relationship is not likely to change in the immediate future. However, if this relationship is to continue, the volume points out that the peoples of the two nations should never pay the curiously mixed compliment and insult of taking each other for granted. Although the book cannot be considered a must for all officers, it certainly is an enlightening analysis of American-Canadian relations.

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In the field of political science—as in so many other disciplines which deal with the examination of the method by which humans handle both domestic and international problems—the individual is lost behind the facade of his actions. In Phillips' biographical history of Harry S. Truman, the individual is never forgotten. Using a technique similar to that employed by Fletcher Knebel in his melodramatic fictional works Night at Camp David and Seven Days in May, Mr. Phillips presents an interesting, moving, and suspense-filled drama about the man who was the 32nd President of the United States. Offering the reader a brief but perspective glance at Truman's youth, Mr. Phillips leads you through the cigar-smoke-filled rooms behind the Pendergast political machine as Truman emerges as the "Senator from Pendergast," to that fateful day in
1945 when President Roosevelt died, catapulting this man to the Presidency. The reasons and the personal considerations offered by both President Truman and those intimately involved in such major decision areas as the dropping of the atomic bomb, the Potsdam Conference, postwar domestic problems, the 1948 Presidential campaign, and Korea are explored in depth by Mr. Phillips.

For any student of history or political science, or, for that matter, any individual who is interested in reading about a most important segment of our nation's history, *The Truman Presidency* is highly recommended. For the student the book is well footnoted and contains an excellent bibliography. For the casual reader, Phillips' journalistic style provides easy as well as informative reading.

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General Nathan F. Twining, USAF retired, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1957-1960, has compiled a chronology of events, dating back some 25 years, which portrays current questionable trends in our political-military relationships. In numerous cases he has objectively and authentically shown where political decisions emanating from the offices of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense have overruled the recommendations of the United States' highest military body, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to the detriment of the country's national interest and security. Such cases in point are the 1958-1961 uninspected moratorium on nuclear testing, the TFX, nuclear carriers, military value of cost/effectiveness, the "missile Maginot Line," sanctuaries and getting bogged down in a ground war in Vietnam, centralization of power in the hands of a single Secretary of Defense, and many other matters of equal importance. It is not a question of "hindsight is always better than foresight" or Monday morning quarterbacking, because in the particular time, place, and circumstance of the cases cited the true facts were known and clearly explicit to the decision makers at the time. It is for this reason that General Twining was prompted to lay out for