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Neither Liberty nor Safety

R. N. Peterson
U.S. Navy

Nathan F. Twining

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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 atom 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.

C.O. WAKEMAN
Commander, U.S. Navy


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
appraisal by the American people current trends in present political-military relationships which undoubtedly will have a profound impact on the future of America—indeed the world. The author implies quite vividly, as stated in his title, that there is "neither liberty nor safety" in the continuation of such trends, and he strongly advocates immediate reversals, which are quoted in part, as follows:

An essential element of defense policy would appear to be a reversal of the trend toward complete and detailed control at the top which came in with Secretary of Defense McNamara. The Secretary of Defense should certainly sit on top of the defense establishment with respect to the general policies of business administration, management procedures, and in the adjudication of differences of military viewpoints. However, he should not be in position to ride roughshod over professional military judgment and at the same time to be able to invoke pressures which tend to muzzle the professional establishment in its traditional dealings with both the public press and the Congress of the United States.

This book is extremely well written, easily read, and understandable; it is highly recommended for the professional military man and civilian alike.

R.N. PETERSON
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U.S. Navy