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## The Uncommon Defense and Congress, 1945-1963

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**PROFESSIONAL READING**

Kolodziej, Edward A. *The Uncommon Defense and Congress, 1945-1963*. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1966. 630p. (MA 23 .K74)

This well-written book develops the author's thesis that there is a pressing need to reevaluate and reformulate, in terms of the contemporary conditions of international life, the role of the United States governmental institutions in strategic and foreign policy. The institution examined is the United States Congress, and the analysis focuses on its use of the power of the purse to raise and support the nation's armed forces since World War II. By way of background, the Constitutional authority granted to Congress for the creation and control of military force is examined in depth through consideration of the intent expressed in "The Federalist Papers." The author then considers Congress' use of its power of the purse to influence and shape military strategic policy during the periods separated by such historic milestones as the end of World War II, the Korean War, Sputnik, and the Kennedy Administration. The significant aspects of Congressional action on each year's military appropriations bill are considered to determine the extent of Congress' concern with national strategic policy. Although the analysis is somewhat tenuous in treating the reasons for certain budget actions, it competently establishes the general trend of Congressional consent to military policies, force levels, and weapons systems that could not support the nation's policy objectives, interests, and commitments. The author does explore the defense policy innovations inaugurated by the Kennedy Administration during 1961, but concludes that the Congressional machinery for dealing with the requirements of security and foreign policy remain outmoded. In the third and final part of the work, Mr. Kolodziej discusses his concept of the role that Congress should play in forming strategic policy through its budgetary power. From the previously mentioned analysis of the part played since World War II, the range of Congress' potential contribution is defined within the framework of the constraints on Congress and its relationship to the President and the public. In conclusion, the author offers his recommendation for the establishment of a National Policy Committee in each house of Congress as a model or guide for Congressional reform.

To the military reader, this book provides a clear, analytical insight into the performance of the

legislative body which provides the limited resources that the decision maker must allocate among many competing requirements. The scope of the analysis and the extent of the time frame considered are large enough to offer adequate support to the conclusions. For anyone interested in future expansion of the planning, programming, and budgeting system into other than executive branches of the government, this work provides valuable and authentic background material.

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Tavares de Sa, Hernane. *The Play within the Play*.  
New York: Knopf, 1966. 309p.

"An institution which is at one and the same time intimately immersed in world events and yet primarily self-contained--truly a play within the play," is the way Hernane Tavares de Sa describes the United Nations, and he terms *The Play within the Play* "the inside story of the UN." A Brazilian journalist and editor, Mr. Tavares de Sa came to the UN in 1960 at the invitation of Dag Hammarskjold to head the UN Information Services and remained until 1965. The author has organized his material as if it actually were a play. In his *plot* he reviews the internal organization and examines key issues that were of past and are of continuing interest to the UN. His *cast* includes the "angels" who support the UN financially and who, as a result, wield considerable power inside the organization, and the *players* who include all others directly or indirectly associated with the organization, from the Secretary General to wives and UN visitors. His *stage* is the "Glass House on East River" and the other UN capital in Geneva. The *rehearsals* describe certain aspirations of the UN as well as specialized agencies functioning within the organization. In the *world premier*, Mr. Tavares de Sa critically analyzes, from the standpoint of the UN, the Hungarian revolt, the Congo and Cuban situations, and Vietnam.

Because of its highly critical nature, from the standpoint of individuals, groups, and procedures, the book may well have received a cool official reception in the UN. However, it probably still is being avidly discussed in the delegates' lounges and coffee bars. It does afford Americans the rare opportunity of