

1968

The Center

S.L. Barth

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

Recommended Citation

Barth, S.L. (1968) "The Center," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 21 : No. 9 , Article 9.
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol21/iss9/9>

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.

economic and military advantage, which each nation persists in following, works to the disadvantage of the West in general and of the indigenous peoples in particular.

The author's plea for Western unity and a reasonable policy for the political, economic, and social advancement of these peoples is largely unassailable. The courses of action that he advances rest on a recognition and resolution of the existing disunity. While conceding that France might prove recalcitrant in correlating her Asian and Pacific politics with those of the English-speaking nations, he emphasizes that the choice of promoting or disregarding increased Western solidarity in this region rests with the United States. Since the United States possesses most of the actual force in the area and must bear the bulk of the consequent burdens, she must determine the extent of her willingness to share responsibility with her Western allies. This book is a timely discussion of a neglected aspect of Western interests in the Pacific. It is also an interesting primer on the politics, culture, and economy of many of the island states and dependencies in that vast region.

J.D. STEVENS

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Air Force

Alsop, Stewart J.O. *The Center*. New York: Harper & Row, 1968. 365p.

It's easy to agree with Stewart Alsop that *The Center* is not an *Inside Washington*. While containing some facts which may be found elsewhere (including an encyclopedia), *The Center* consists primarily of a series of entertaining stories about the people who inhabit the innermost portion of our Government. Unfortunately, not all of the stories are appearing in print for the first time. However, otherwise this book is so timely that Clark Clifford is recognized as the current Secretary of Defense. After initially brushing off the Civil Service as a "bureaucratic disaster," the

author later notes that "the conservative Republican businessman whom President Eisenhower brought into the government were uniformly surprised by the high quality of the men they found in the upper federal bureaucracy." Despite this "expert" opinion, Alsop continues to belabor the Civil Service throughout this book. Except for the Central Intelligence Agency, the Kennedys and Robert McNamara are the only "heroes" in *The Center*. If there is a real "bad guy" it is the "military bureaucracy" at whom Alsop snipes at every possible opportunity. Accusing them of obeying Parkinson's Law with "more enthusiasm than any other bureaucracy," the author assures his reader that the corridors of the Pentagon are bursting "with majors and colonels and staff sergeants and civilian female secretaries and generals . . . taking in each other's bureaucratic laundry." Overlooked are the 2,157 civilian personnel located in the Office of the Secretary of Defense or the 70,000 civilians employed in agencies directly under that office. One who has plenty of time to spare and enjoys reading gossip about governmental VIP's might enjoy *The Center*. However, it should be read before a new administration changes the personalities located there. Anyone looking for a serious evaluation of the operations of the U.S. Government should not bother with *The Center*.

S.L. BARTH

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army

Elliott-Bateman, Michael. *Defeat in the East*. London: Oxford University Press, 1967. 270p.

According to its publisher, this book was written by a former officer in the British Royal Artillery who recently resigned his commission in order to continue his military studies, and who is now a lecturer in the Department of Government of the University of Manchester. For this reason, probably, the author, while critical of Western mili-