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United States Merchant Shipping Policies and Politics

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our ways and that we judge Asians by our standards at our peril. In this study there is much that should help greatly in relations with the generally charming, intelligent, if sometimes aggravating, people of Southeast Asia, and one can agree with the authors' conclusion about American policy in Southeast Asia:

We have probably more than held our own to date in the area, and we probably will be able to continue to do so in the future. The diplomatic problems facing the United States in Southeast Asia are admittedly difficult, but they are not hopeless.

This is a well-researched but poorly assembled book. As a research manual, it would provide worthy reference material. However, considerable repetition and a tortuous, academic style combine to make the reading a laborious process.

ROBERT A. BALDWIN
Commander, U.S. Navy

Lawrence, Samuel A., *United States Merchant Shipping Policies and Politics*. Washington: Brookings Institution, 1966. 405 p. (HE 745 .L29)

United States merchant shipping has been a sick industry throughout most of the history of this country with, of course, the notable exceptions of the great clipper era and the period immediately following World War II. During the latest decline of the industry has come a rash of studies--public and private--to determine what's wrong with the U.S. merchant marine. In spite of the quality and thoroughness of many of these studies, however, little or no effective action has been taken either by the Congress or the Administration to halt the deterioration of U.S. merchant shipping.

In this book, which the author describes as "a study of U.S. Government programs to develop and maintain American merchant shipping," Mr. Lawrence specifically addresses the problems of defining, synthesizing, and updating policies to keep pace with the industry's political and economic environment. Further, he examines the techniques for the implementation of policies and analyzes the politics involved in getting a program to the fore of government consciousness so that action will be taken. The book, of course, includes a study of the government programs,

including the Merchant Marine Act, 1936, and the administrative machinery that has been created--and recreated--to implement the legislation. The study, therefore, includes the effect that Administration policies and political pressures have had on the programs. The scope of the volume is, of necessity, quite broad, and the reader often wishes that certain problems such as labor relations, the effect of strikes, etc., had been covered in more detail; but these matters are outside the scope of this study and would increase the material several times. As it is, it is a tribute to the skill of the author that the book is of sufficient detail in only 352 pages of text. Mr. Lawrence has produced a scholarly and authoritative work that is concisely and clearly written. It is well documented and will be of great value to the serious student of the United States merchant marine.

M.E. SOPER
Commander, U.S. Navy

Ray, Sibnarayan, ed. *Vietnam: Seen from East and West*. New York: Praeger, 1966. 192 p.

In *Vietnam: Seen from East and West* the contributors use the Vietnamese conflict as a focal point for discussing Communist aspirations and strategy in all of South and Southeast Asia. The book consists of a collection of essays written by academicians, journalists, and politicians from countries with a deep, and in several cases vital, interest in the area. Sibnarayan Ray, who edited the book, is an Australian who, at the time the book was published, was Head of the Department of Indian Studies at the University of Melbourne. He has achieved coherence by selecting essayists who subscribe to a common view. That view is that a line must be drawn against further Communist advancement in Asia; that the U.S. action in South Vietnam's behalf was, and is, necessary; and that a continuing U.S. presence is vital to prevent Red China from establishing dominance over Asia and the Indo-Pacific region. The essays which the book comprises are of high quality and structured so as to impart unity to the complete work. They are grouped into four major areas. First, there are those which deal with the origins of the Vietnam conflict, the problems and aspirations of the Vietnamese people, and the reasons for the failure of efforts to bring about negotiations. Then there are two essays which analyze the methods and techniques of the guerrilla