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## Vietnam: Seen from East and West

O. W. Hamilton Jr.  
*U.S. Navy*

Sibnarayan Ray

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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

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warfare being waged in South Vietnam and the true nature of the Viet Cong. The third part of the book is devoted to brief studies of Communist activity in Laos, the Philippines, and Korea. Lastly, there are five studies which are devoted to the global implications of the conflict in South Vietnam.

*Vietnam: Seen from East and West* is a timely, thought-provoking book. The issues are clearly enumerated, and the writers argue their positions with logic and thoroughness. This book should be widely read throughout the free world, particularly by military officers and those interested in foreign policy.

O.W. HAMILTON, JR.  
Commander, U.S. Navy

Cleveland, Harold Van B. *The Atlantic Idea and Its European Rivals*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1966. 186 p.

The author, personally convinced that the Atlantic Alliance is not about to crumble even though it is beset by divisive forces, sets out to take an objective look at the organization in the mid-1960's. Although he does suggest lines which U.S. policy might best take in the immediate future, this is not his objective. Rather, he is interested in an objective look at the political, military, and economic factors underlying the Alliance in an effort to expose the weaknesses and strengths of the Alliance and of the several different possible courses it might follow in the immediate future. There is sufficient documentation and background material to support his discussions which, overall, accomplish his objective. The three major facets of the problem are treated separately--the control of the nuclear deterrent or the military security problem, the international monetary difficulties, and trade policy. He notes that the first two are the most divisive and that they are so because they are prime elements of national power. Even so, a measure of supranational control in these areas has supported the viability of member nations in the past and may again in the future, but today sovereign nations are reluctant to give up any portion of these powers to an outsider, i.e., the United States. In his final two chapters, the author discusses the two major themes underlying the future course of the Alliance--the European idea and the Atlantic idea. In fact, he dissects the three main ideas--the Atlantic Union, a United Europe as a