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Niels Bohr: the Man, His Science, and the World They Changed

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Military personnel will find that portion of the book which covers the Ambassador's ten years in Japan of particular interest. After a period of uncertainty and indecision, Ambassador Grew concluded that Japan was in the throes of a social upheaval led by Army officers determined to readjust the lot of the impoverished Japanese farmer. The resources that Japan would need were to be had for the taking in the "co-prosperity sphere." While the Japanese Army worried about the Russian Bear's interfering with its plans, the more cautious (and jealous) Navy worried about the American Eagle. Diplomatic personnel will read with nostalgia or incredulity, depending on their generation, what it was like in the "old days." Private income, a "good background," and a facility for languages were essential requirements for entering the elite diplomatic service. Salaries were low and allowances non-existent (some positions paid \$600 per annum), and hence the young diplomatic had to maintain a fairly high standard of living out of his own pocket (or his family's). The consular service, on the other hand, was more remunerative. Consuls promoted American business and were generally considered more representative of the broad American public, even though they were a bit lower down on the international social scale.

Ambassador Grew had risen to the position of Under Secretary of State when public opinion forced an amalgamation and "Americanization" of the two services in 1924, but he successfully resisted their actual integration for several years. He quite openly favored those in the diplomatic corps with promotions and appointments as heads of mission. The author does not spare the Ambassador: again and again, he seems to take Mr. Grew to task for failure to penetrate to the core of a problem

or situation. "In the first place, Grew had neither the broad intellectual curiosities, passion for detail, or sophisticated techniques of the modern analyst. He depended more on feel than on fact." Again, the author chides him for his inability to deal with the "steerage passengers." Grew felt sure of himself only when dealing with "gentlemen" of his own station whom he could trust. This book is highly recommended for those who seek to know more about our country's immediate past and the role of this very distinguished Ambassador.

THE HON. T. S. ESTES
State Department Adviser

Moore, Ruth. *Niels Bohr: the Man, His Science, & the World They Changed*. New York: Knopf, 1966. 436p. (QC 16 .B63M6)

Niels Bohr, whose genius indicated the avenue into the nuclear era, emerges as a farseeing humanitarian as well as a physicist in this enthralling and lucid biography. Miss Moore's talents and experience as an author and science news reporter are clearly displayed as she melds the reminiscences of Bohr's associates, family and students with the thinker's own writings into the most complete book written about Bohr since his death in 1962. Clearly delineated is Bohr's intellectual ability to predict the next discovery as the minutiae and mechanics of the atom were uncovered in the first half of this century. While the brilliant contributions of physicists the world over are reported in this volume, Niels Bohr is acknowledged as their intellectual leader. Equally fascinating is the recounting of the 30-year Einstein-Bohr dialogue over quantum mechanics.

Niels Bohr: the Man, His Science, & the World They Changed does have its deficiencies. Since the book was obviously written for the reader

with little background in physics, replacing the inadequate line drawings with some of the marvelous explanatory drawings found in any modern high school physics textbook would enhance the reader's understanding of the main character's concepts and achievements. Although the author includes a few pages outlining her resource material, her glib use of quotation marks and assertive statements without citing their source degrades the usefulness of the book as a serious historical work. This reader was appalled by the multitude of typographical errors and examples of awkward sentence construction which any self-respecting editor would have remedied. Errors of fact regarding nuclear physics could not be judged to a great degree due to the reviewer's limited background in the discipline. Nevertheless, it seems reasonable to expect that the description of a classic light

spectrum experiment by Isaac Newton normally explained in any elementary physics book could have been reported accurately.

Of current interest, the last third of the book illuminates the Danish physicist's deep concern about the future of the nuclear energy he helped to release. His thesis for limiting nuclear weapons proliferation and expanding civil uses of nuclear energy, advanced in 1944 to President Roosevelt, were cast aside by the statesmen. Only now are Bohr's proposals being reevaluated by the nuclear superpowers. This section of the book may prove revealing to students of the arms control and disarmament problems and can shed some light on the history of the unproductive nuclear proliferation talks at Geneva.

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Aggression unchallenged is aggression unleashed.

Lyndon B. Johnson: Statement to the nation after North Vietnamese torpedo attacks on U.S. warships in international waters, Gulf of Tonkin, 4 August 1964

It is invariably the weak, not the strong, who court aggression and war.

General Thomas S. Power, USAF: Design for Survival, 1965