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The Trial of the Germans

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Barnett, A. Doak. *China After Mao*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1967. 287 p.

Much of the current writing on the subject of Communist China is either historical or reportorial. Professor Barnett, however, attempts analysis. He looks at the situation as it is and has been in order to speculate upon that which might be coming. He bases speculation upon Chinese Communist documents, the history of the Communist Party in China, and knowledge of the people and history of China.

The struggle for succession to leadership in Red China has begun. Mao cannot long endure. The leadership which he has provided to the Communist Revolution on the mainland of China is nearing an end. What lies ahead? This question is of interest not only to the world outside China, but also to the leaders within China. Many of the latter, according to Professor Barnett in *China After Mao*, propose answers which are different from those which Mao would like to hear. This difference is behind much of the current unrest in China. Mao is trying hard to insure that the regime which succeeds him will adhere to the policies which brought him success in his revolution. He is accused of looking backward, of being a "revolutionary romantic," of trying to cure present ills with past remedies. Those who oppose Mao take the position that circumstances in China have changed to such an extent that past remedies must be modified to fit the changed conditions. Whoever the successor to Mao may be, he will face deep-seated and enduring problems. Central to these will be the need to promote economic development. How this can be done while maintaining the momentum of the revolution will be the most difficult problem of Chinese Communist leaders. What can the United

States and the Western World do in this transition period in China to influence the outcome in a way favorable to the free world? Very little, says the author, other than to insure diplomatic flexibility to respond to opportunities as they occur and to insure that the Chinese leaders know that moderation is likely to be rewarded, violence is likely to be punished.

This short, readable book is divided into two parts. The first, a lecture series, is the meat of the nut. The second, a reprint of Chinese documents, Professor Barnett selects as sources of Maoist prescriptions for the future. *China After Mao* gives insight into the problems that will face China in the immediate future. It is solid food in the diet of those who would partake of the banquet of material now available on China.

K. H. LYONS,
Captain, U.S. Navy

Davidson, Eugene. *The Trial of the Germans*. New York: Macmillan, 1966, 636 p.

Trial of the Germans is an account of the 22 defendants tried by the International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg in 1946. The precision and minuteness of detail concerning the private and public lives of each individual tried at Nuremberg reflect 7 years of research and writing by the author. Each defendant is presented in case-study style. Following the neat arrangement of biographical material on each defendant individual and organization tried, the author attempts to analyze the factors that resulted in the creation of the International Military Tribunal. His conclusions are vague and unclear. Although he clearly intends his final chapter entitled "Two Decades Later" as a sharp rebuke of the trials themselves, he nevertheless states that, "In a certain

sense the trial succeeded in doing what judicial proceedings are supposed to do: it convinced even the guilty that the verdict against them was just." This book is recommended for those who are interested in obtaining some insight into the character of the Nuremberg defendants. It is not recommended for those interested in a critical, analytical book on the legal basis for the Nuremberg trials and the precedents they established.

J. M. BATTAGLINO

Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy

Fall, Bernard B. *Hell in a Very Small Place*. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1967. 515 p.

The courage, frustration, agony, hope, and sacrifice of the French military forces during the 1955 siege of Dien Bien Phu are the concern of this volume. The late Bernard B. Fall has written a superb day-to-day description of the events leading to, during, and after this tragic battle.

Hell in a Very Small Place represents Dr. Fall's extensive research of all available official and nonofficial documents pertaining to this historic battle and his interrogations of many of the participants of both sides of the conflict. The book opens with an account of the initial 1954 French airborne landing at Dien Bien Phu during the French Indochina War. It then describes the daily buildup of, and fighting between, the French and Viet-Minh forces. The reports of the French attempts to resupply the fortress are excellent as is Dr. Fall's description of the individuals participating in the battle. The book concludes with a spellbinding recountal of the last agonizing hours of the gallant French defenders and their demolished fortress. In addition, the reactions of French, American, and British officials after the fall of Dien Bien Phu are reviewed. This book is highly

recommended for the student of military history and should be a part of every military library.

G. H. KAFFER, JR.

Commander, U.S. Navy

Farago, Ladislav. *The Broken Seal*. New York: Random House, 1967. 439 p.

The Broken Seal is the story of military and diplomatic cryptology and its place in the events that ended in World War II. The breaking of the Japanese codes prior to World War II is household knowledge and has led to considerable allegation and much hindsight prophecy. Mr. Farago has treated this subject completely, starting with the first breaking, in 1915, of an American code by an ambitious American code clerk. From this point he follows the fortunes, in terms of success, failure, and indifference periods, of U.S. military and diplomatic cryptology involving the Japanese. Mr. Farago has a background of World War II ONI service and was an intimate of many of the primaries in this story. His research into the Japanese side of the story was immense and complete. The footnotes, reference notes, and bibliographic material provide a complete and interesting supplement and will fan the reader's further interest in this intriguing subject. It is this material, in part, that makes the *Reader's Digest* condensation of this book pale compared to the full work.

The event-by-event, personality-by-personality, national-reaction and international-counteraction coverage of the United States-Japanese relations from 1918 through 1941 weaves an incredible story. It is a story replete with daring plans, the dull cryptanalysis spade-work, the good and the bad luck, and the humorous and the saddening stories. Cryptology came of age in 1921 during the Washington