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## Military Strategy

J.G. Fifield

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vicert system, and between the different means of implementation at the neutral country of shipment, on the high seas, and at the neutral country of destination.

The study tries to answer the question as to whether the navicert system conforms to international law or has been recognized as an institution of customary international law. The importance of the subject of this study and its currency is evident, because the United States made use of the navicert system method under guise of a "clearing system" during the Cuban Crisis in 1962, and because the developments in Southeast Asia might force the United States to take similar actions in respect to the South China Sea. In this connection, part II (pages 265 ff.), which deals with the Soviet attitude and practice of customary international law, will be of extraordinary interest. However, the assumptions and conclusions stated therein should be read with highly critical eyes. Although the Soviet Union has always stuck to the principle of *pacta sunt servanda*, and in spite of the Soviet attitude during the present phase of "peaceful coexistence" as it appears in the cited explanations of Tunkin (Soviet Professor for International Law), there is no evidence that the Soviet Union — in case of international crisis or of hot war — would not interpret customary international law according to her school and ideology of dialectic materialism!

Both parts are written in the German language, but because the author has been using a juridical terminology, which is linguistically of Roman origin (Latin), and because all citations of British or United States sources are printed in English, there will be no major difficulties in reading and understanding the publication. Moreover, part II includes a Summary and a List of Contents (for both part

I and part II) in the English language.

Henrich Grote

Captain, Federal German Navy

Wylie, Joseph C. *Military Strategy*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 1967. 111 p.

This book sets forth Rear Admiral Wylie's plea for recognition of strategy as a legitimate and important public concern. He feels that current thinking with regard to strategy is disorganized, superficial, and inadequate. His treatise is directed toward achievement of more creative intellectual activity in this area from both the military and the educational/institutional levels. Rear Admiral Wylie presents in succinct terms the generally accepted theories of strategy and explains their limitations. These include the maritime theory proposed by Mahan and Corbett, the air theory of Douhet, and the continental theory as postulated by Clausewitz. To these he has added his thoughts on the theories of Mao. The point is made that these are all specific theories, each valid under specific circumstances, with diminishing value as they depart from the basic conditions. What is needed, then, is a general theory, applicable to all phases of warfare. The author proposes that in this general theory the primary aim of the strategist should be to conduct war with a degree of control of the enemy. This would be achieved by control of the pattern of the war through manipulation of the center of gravity of the war to the advantage of the strategist and to the disadvantage of the enemy. This book carries a thought-provoking message in very readable form and is highly recommended for all students of naval warfare.

J. G. FIFIELD

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