

1967

America's Concentration Camps

J.E. Sullivan

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review>

Recommended Citation

Sullivan, J.E. (1967) "America's Concentration Camps," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 20 : No. 9 , Article 8.
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol20/iss9/8>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Naval War College Review by an authorized editor of U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu.

Bosworth, Allen R. *America's Concentration Camps*. New York: Norton, 1967. 283 p.

Captain Bosworth, a former San Francisco journalist, served with Naval Intelligence at the time of the Japanese evacuation from the west coast. In a clear, factual style, he describes the events that led up to the racial hysteria which resulted in the internment of Japanese Americans in the early days of World War II. He reviews the actions of special interest groups, hate groups, and so-called "military necessities" that led up to the evacuation of some 100,000 Japanese from their homes and businesses and their tragic internment in desert barracks. The sadness and stupidity of this abuse of Government power are made more vivid by the personal accounts contained in this documentation.

In contrast, the author cites the combat achievements of those same Japanese Americans of the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team became the most highly decorated unit of the U.S. Army in all its history. The hardships and misery of life in the internment camps are delineated in the accounts by those who endured the conditions facing the internees. The personal and pecuniary losses of these citizens caused by the War Relocation Act are stunning to the reader. The political and financial exploitation by others, at the expense of American citizens, is likened to the white man's exploitation of the Indian — a national shame.

The ironical view of most Japanese Americans that "the evacuation" was a good thing in that it was "a helpful catastrophe" evolves as the final consensus of those good citizens who bore the brunt of internment in physical discomfort, humiliation, and great personal loss. The book is well written

and appropriate reading in this time of racial tension.

J. E. SULLIVAN

Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy

Buchan, Alastair. *War in Modern Society*. London: Watts, 1966. 207 p.

Although this is not a history, according to the author's own words, *War in Modern Society* is based on the history of ideas about war and its control, of technological developments, and of the growth of international association to prevent war. In the preface of this thought-provoking book, Mr. Buchan expresses its objective by stating: "I hope that it may make some of today's controversies, both among the experts and between nations, more comprehensible: it will have served its purpose if it convinces those who read it that war is a phenomenon worthy of extended study before one can form any valid judgments about the conditions of peace."

In "Perspectives on Modern War," the first chapter of the book, Mr. Buchan presents a scholarly historical review of, and an excellent discussion on, the causes and control of war. He then devotes the next two chapters to the transitions in the nature of war and forms of strategy that have taken place in the last 20 years. In effect, he develops an understandable picture for the reader of war and its control in the contemporary world — at the start of the last third of the 20th century. He emphasizes three areas that are rapidly changing that picture: the concept of deterrence and its expansion beyond the original threat of nuclear retaliation; collective security and the growing problems within existing alliances, created in part by resurgent nationalism, the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and the Sino-Soviet schism; and the continuing spread of violence throughout the world, sparked by the nationalism and aspirations of the un-