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The Politics of Innovation

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derdeveloped nations. The last half of the book looks beyond the present day to the "remaining years of the 20th century, with the dangers and opportunities which the heritage of the past century have presented to us." Starting with a review of the major armed camps and potential conflict areas of the world, Mr. Buchan examines the forces that lead to war in light of the pressures and restraints of modern society. In particular, he discusses the part played by the United Nations, by United States/U.S.S.R. desires to avoid direct confrontation, and by the concept of apparent "convergence" in which Communist and capitalist countries are becoming more alike in their ambitions and responses. Discouraging on the dangers of war, both real and apparent, he dwells at length on three threats of growing concern: third power instigation, technological innovations such as the ABM with its possibilities of a renewed arms race, and nuclear proliferation. Finally, he treats the possibilities of controlling war, either through the control of armaments or through the control of national aggressive tendencies that lead to war.

Mr. Buchan has done an excellent job of analyzing the events of the past and the realities of the present, together with their implications. He succeeds not only in affording an understanding of the war in modern society, but he also pinpoints the problems and trends which presage the changes that might be expected before the end of the century.

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Davis, Vincent. *The Politics of Innovation: Patterns and Navy Cases*. Denver: University of Denver, 1967. 69 p.

In this brief monograph Mr. Davis

reviews the methods which certain Navy officers have used to encourage the adoption of new weapons systems within the Navy. His case studies are excellent although, as he states, by no means complete.

The author examines the Navy's initial struggles to achieve a nuclear strike capability from aircraft carriers, the development of a nuclear propulsion system, and the fight for the fleet ballistic missile. In each example Mr. Davis implies that any successful venture requires vertical (top echelon) support as well as horizontal encouragement within the service. In this regard the reader is instructed to analyze the climate for innovation carefully before dashing forward with uncontained enthusiasm. The advice is plain, but caution cannot really be the hallmark of progress; in each of these cases, even prudence was abandoned on occasion.

Although never stated specifically, Mr. Davis also cautions against the loss of military effectiveness which can result from parochial thinking at the highest levels. It seems that the desire to maintain one-service control over the development of weapons systems might result in a time lag simply because such absolute control encourages a degree of restraint which is absent in a competitive environment.

This monograph covers cases which were really decided a decade or more ago. A sequel to this fine study, which would analyze specific programs since 1960, might be a most valuable research topic for enterprising Naval War College students. Mr. Davis has provided a well-organized format for future investigators in the field of military behavioral science — and it would be enlightening (and encouraging) to find that his premises were still valid.

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