

1967

A Quarter of Mankind

K.C. Holm

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

Recommended Citation

Holm, K.C. (1967) "A Quarter of Mankind," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 20 : No. 9 , Article 19.
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol20/iss9/19>

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.

regard to long-range planning and the training programs for its officers. In these areas the State Department is woefully inadequate, according to the author who probably would find that most of his colleagues agree.

Acknowledging a "current spurt" of improvement in State, the author nevertheless has some harsh things to say about all but a few of the top level authorities of the Department and concludes that it "is in dire need of a general manager . . . who has time to oversee the establishment in its entirety." This manager should be experienced in the Department and the Foreign Service, and Presidents and Secretaries of State should give him the support he needs "through succeeding Administrations." Without explaining just how the time span involved in his solution is to be covered by one human being, the author finally concludes that no President nor Secretary would entrust such a powerful and influential position to a career officer of the diplomatic service until the Department has won respect for professionalization and sound operating procedures. It is regrettable that this otherwise skillful, if somewhat biased, analysis of the diplomatic service should end on such a contradictory and rather unrealistic note. One suspects that the author longs for a McNamara instead of a Rusk in State. The book is recommended for supplementary reading by officers who wish to delve more deeply into some of the problems of the State Department, particularly as they affect relations with the Department of Defense.

T. S. ESTES
State Department Adviser

Wilson, Dick. *A Quarter of Mankind*.
London: Weidenfeld and Nicolson,
1966. 308 p.

Dick Wilson, former editor of the
Far Eastern Economic Review of Hong

Kong, has written a three-part analysis of Communist China under the regime established in 1949. It begins by considering the main elements and tensions within new Chinese cultural, social, and political life; the second part of the book discusses the national economy; and the third concludes with a prophetic review of Red China's international relations. After the first few pages the reader is already impressed by the meticulous manner in which Mr. Wilson documents his statements drawn from both Communist and anti-Communist sources. Upon completing the 300 pages of close-set type, one cannot help but also admire the author's sympathetic and friendly approach to the Chinese people and their revolution. His lack of hostility makes the book not only commendably objective but more easily understandable. *A Quarter of Mankind* was written before the current Chinese uprisings; however, the author did have the insight to forecast that the resurgence of traditional individualism among the people might eventually jeopardize collective disciplines and the materialistic rule of international communism. On the other hand, he feels that the universalistic aspect of communism could eventually break down China's cultural distaste for Western modern living. Recent events have apparently confirmed at least the first of these forecasts. This interesting book is "must" reading for all students of international affairs who wish to obtain an accurate comprehension of the forces behind the contemporary Chinese revolution.

K. C. HOLM
Captain, U.S. Navy

