

1966

The Chinese Model

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BOOKS

Kelly, George A. *Lost Soldiers*. Cambridge: M.I.T. Press, 1965. 404 p.

In this book the author sets out to unravel the history and rationale of the French Army's conduct during the 15 years that the Army was "tom to its depths by conflicts it had neither the means nor the luck to surmount, heaped with abuse it did not merit, and led to react in a way that was aberrant and dangerous but finally understandable." It is a fascinating, complex and often painful tale of the French Army and Empire in crisis between the years 1947 and 1962. It is fascinating and painful reading for the military professional because, though he may not be able to understand or to feel like a Frenchman, he does understand and feel kinship for the professional values of the French military officer. The American military professional will note the many poignant parallels between the current United States involvement in South Vietnam and the events described in this book, and he may speculate regarding the impact of this unique conflict upon his own professional values. It is not suggested that anything as traumatic as the French Army's ideological involvement will occur in the American ranks. Rather, it is suggested that the military professional may derive some useful lessons from this account of an army involved in a kind of war for which it was ideologically unprepared and which drew it into a host of activities that normally fall within the civil administrative domain. Therefore, this book is highly recommended as a valuable contribution to the sociology of the military profession and to the literature of counterinsurgency.

E. R. SCHWASS
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Klatt, Werner, ed. *The Chinese Model*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 1965. 283 p.

As developing nations look for short cuts to modernization and industrialization, there are many advisers on the world scene. Chiefly, today, there are democratic and Communist advisers. Communist advisers promise quicker results through controlled societies. For emerging peoples who are impatient with slow, discipline-requiring methods of development, this may account for the initial appeal of communism. But which of the two leading

brands of communism is better for them, the Soviet or the Chinese? The authors of *The Chinese Model* attempt to evaluate mainland China's experience as a model of progress for other nations to follow. The book consists of 13 essays on the political, social, and economic changes in Communist China from 1949 to the present. A summary of conclusions of the essays is that dramatic changes have taken place in mainland China, but at high cost. Politics and conformity have been placed in command everywhere, to the detriment of the quality of education and the near extinction of creativity. The dogma of Mao, which served the masters well during the rise of Chinese communism, is still adhered to, but circumstances have changed. Political leaders have lost contact with the peasants to a degree that would have been fatal during the Chinese civil war. And, despite stringent controls on, and great sacrifice by, the people, the regime has failed to achieve economic goals which might have made it all worthwhile. The essays are of uneven reader interest, but the last two, "The Role of the Leadership" and "The Chinese Model and the Developing Countries," are outstanding. The total impact of the essays is comforting to the Western reader as he learns that the experts consider the Chinese model a poor one. A question of some relevance remains, however: Do leaders of the emerging nations have the necessary knowledge to understand the shortcomings of the Chinese model?

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Middleton, Drew. *The Atlantic Community*. New York: McKay, 1965. 303 p.

Drew Middleton, *The New York Times'* chief correspondent in Paris, has written a comprehensive report on the condition of NATO and the Atlantic Alliance. In *The Atlantic Community*, he considers the past, the present, and the future of this alliance by methodically delving into the political, economic, and military conditions of the members and their potential adversaries. This is not just another book on NATO; rather it is an examination of the entire Atlantic Community, which discusses the European Economic Community, the Council for Mutual Economic Aid, and their subsidiary organizations. Mr. Middleton draws upon his long experience in Europe to relate European psychology to the present and to possible future conditions within the alliance. His conclusions regarding what may happen in the future are logical and feasible.