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## Empire by Treaty

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The winning side, if the author's suggestions are followed? 'The victory of peaceful competition,' we are told, 'will not be a triumph of a nation or a bloc, but a stable peace, social justice, and freedom; these can win without war.'

It is a provocative little book, perhaps even more so for its being apparently written with a view to the sophisticated general reader rather than the expert. It is at its best where it exposes, in general but unmistakable terms, the actual decline of bipolarity, thus attempting to demolish the remaining theoretical foundation of the 'duopolistic' balance of power strategy. Its second strength is in its general emphasis on modifying the means, without waiting for the reconciliation of goals or despairing over the lack of mutual trust between the opposing camps. In details, however, it sometimes relies on rather flimsy evidence. It will no doubt provoke sharp disagreement over the specific steps it proposes--the 'internationalization' of various critical areas of the world, the UN 'sovereignty' over the high sea, UN 'flashlight force' in the noncommitted countries, and a policy of promoting indigenous revolutions against corrupt regimes in the rimland 'even at a price of chaos,' to name but a few examples. In sum, if only as a rich source of stimulating propositions still awaiting full support, and as an antidote to the most frequently encountered pat solutions in the interpretation of current world politics, *Winning Without War* should be considered required reading by the serious beginning student.

G. STAMBUK  
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Fitzsimons, Matthew A. *Empire by Treaty*. Notre Dame, Ind.: University of Notre Dame Press, 1964. 235 p.

The author presents an account of British policies in the Middle East from colonial nineteenth century through the post-World War II era. Starting with major British interests in the Middle East that commanded attention of nineteenth-century British statesmen, Mr. Fitzsimons masterfully sets the stage in the first part of his book for the more detailed account of Britain and the Middle East in the current era. Essentially, Britain's interest in the Middle East during the 1800's revolved around her concern with containing Russia's designs of dominion over neighboring Turkey, with the security of India, and with the maintenance of British transit unimpaired through the Middle East. During the twentieth century, Middle Eastern oil and

Arab hostility to the idea of colonialism, coupled with the rise of the two world powers—the United States and the Soviet Union—whose concerns and traditions differed from those of Britain, presented the United Kingdom with new and tortuous problems. The author clearly conducts the reader through the history of British policy in the Middle East, showing, paradoxically, that in spite of a succession of Britain's misadventures in this area, her interests there are still largely unimpaired.

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Greene, Felix. *A Curtain of Ignorance*. Garden City, N.Y.:  
Doubleday, 1964. 340 p.

'The sad but irrefutable fact is that the American people today are less informed and more misinformed about China than the people of any other Western nation.' With this as a thesis, the author quotes extensively from the United States press in an effort to make credible his assertions that Americans are 'profoundly misinformed' about China and that, as a consequence, 'we are basing national policies on a concept of China that is unreal.' Although a very considerable amount of research has gone into preparation of this 332-page book, and although Mr. Greene has given some of the evidence contrary to his views, there can be no question but that he set out deliberately to 'prove' his contentions that practically everything having to do with Communist China and its policies is good, while Chiang Kai-shek and the Nationalist Chinese regime are unmitigatedly bad. Yet, once the reader understands and allows for this bias, this book is eminently worth reading in the reviewer's opinion. It is felt that the author's following observation does have relevance to American research and writing on China: 'On matters where great national feelings are aroused, scholars and experts are just as likely as the rest of us to allow their judgments to be swayed by the prevailing climate of opinion.' Particularly informative and recommended are Chapter 3, which describes the conditions in China under Chiang Kai-shek, and Chapter 4 on the 'China Lobby' in the United States. The 47 pages included in these two chapters make for as provocative reading as one could hope to find.

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