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The Last Confucian

Denis A. Warner

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Warner, Denis A. *The Last Confucian*. New York: Macmillan, 1963. 274p.

This book is an interesting, objective, and analytical review of the confusing situation in Southeast Asia. The author is a veteran Australian journalist who knows the area and the people through years of on-the-scene observing and reporting. He knows personally many of the principal characters in the current Vietnamese-Laotian-Thai-Cambodian drama. Written in the easy-to-read style of a first-rate reporter, the book is excellent background material for the contemporary news reports coming out of the area. For the most part it is a not-very-optimistic report on how the communist plans to destroy Western power in the region are being carried out. The main interest and value of this book are that it tells the story of the struggle in Indo-China as viewed by the villager. This is a viewpoint which Mr. Warner thinks has been overlooked by all except the communists. However, he has hopes that the West is correcting the emphasis of its efforts so that the communists will not continue to be the only people working at the grass roots. If the West fails to revise its policy, Mr. Warner says, it will deserve the defeat that it is bound to get.

Chamberlin, William H. *The German Phoenix*. New York: Duell, Sloan & Pearce, 1963. 309p.

This is a highly readable survey of the Federal Republic of Germany in which Mr. Chamberlin describes West Germany's phoenix-like economic and political rise from the ashes of World War II. In a brief historical sketch, he traces Germany's cultural and political inheritance, her defeat in World War II, and her rapid upward climb under the Allied Occupation. He then explores the West Germany of today in terms of its economic accomplishments, its political figures, and its spiritual forces. Mr. Chamberlin sees the emergence of a free, prosperous, and anticommunist Germany as a victory for United States foreign policy. Since American policy toward Germany in the early years of the Occupation was particularly inept, this ultimate victory is remarkable. The author concludes that the prospect for increasing friendship and mutual understanding between the United States and the Federal Republic is favorable. Based on extensive travels in Germany and on interviews with leading German personalities, as well as with obscure Germans of all classes, this book is a timely and lively look at an important ally.