

1962

Russian Foreign Policy: Essays in Historical Perspective

Conference on a Century of Russian Foreign Policy

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BOOKS

Padelford, Norman J. and Lincoln, George A. *Dynamics of International Politics*. New York: Macmillan, 1962. 634 p.

The authors state that 'a revolution of momentous proportions is taking place in world politics. Under the pressures of a new nationalism, driven by the urge for rapid social and economic change, a large number of sovereign states are being born and are making their unsteady way into world affairs.' There is a burgeoning measure of international co-operation in the non-Communist world at the same time that communist forces are proclaiming anew their aim of world conquest. Pressure blocs of new and secondary powers are exerting influences upon international relations hitherto reserved to the great powers. This volume is concerned primarily with the impact of these changes upon America's place in the world; the actions of the United States in the era of the 1960's and 1970's will determine whether America remains a nation with the power adequate to achieve its national objectives. This volume is, in effect, a revision of the authors' previous work, *International Politics*, (New York: Macmillan, 1954), and is recommended as basic reading in the field of international relations.

Johnson, John J., ed. *The Role of the Military in Underdeveloped Countries*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1962. 427 p.

This is a compendium of studies by 11 authors which examines the activities of military organizations and the effects of these activities on the political, economic, and social structures and climates of selected underdeveloped areas. With the exception of the first study by Edward Shils, the volume is easily read. This work provides a broad base for further study of the evolution of specific governments and their current policies.

Conference on a Century of Russian Foreign Policy, Yale University, 1961. *Russian Foreign Policy: Essays in Historical Perspective*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1962. 620 p.

This book comprises a series of essays originally presented at a conference on 'A Century of Russian Foreign Policy: Studies in Historical Perspective,' held at Yale University in April 1961. The aim of the book is to present an evaluation of the present through an interpretation of the past with the purpose of illuminating the future. With 18 outstanding scholars and so broad a subject, naturally there is no complete agreement on any one point, but the book is a

stimulating blend of factual information and considered interpretation of historical and contemporary events. The subjects propounded for the original essays were divided into the following main headings: (1) Contexts, (2) Formation of Policy, (3) Instruments of Policy, (4) Policy in Action and (5) Retrospect and Prospect. Eminent authorities—Kennan, Garthoff, Barghoorn and others—were invited to write essays within each group. The result is a work which is valuable to the student of historical trends in Russian foreign policies and which offers new perspectives for the study of international relations as well.

Kahn, Herman. *Thinking About the Unthinkable*. New York: Horizon, 1962. 254 p.

'The outcome of decisions that are well-meaning, informed, and intelligent can be disastrous. However, few would argue that this is a good reason to be malevolent, ignorant or stupid.' With this plea, Herman Kahn, of *On Thermonuclear War* fame, both opens and closes his newest book—a book whose primary purpose appears to be a defense of the necessity for thinking about modern war. Kahn has good reason to be sensitive about this point, for it was his daring to think about such a horrible subject as thermonuclear war rather than the substance of what he had to say that earned his first book its most critical and violent reviews. (For example, see *Scientific American*, March 1961, p. 197-200.) Kahn accomplishes his purpose very effectively in Chapter I, and then nails it down tight in the final chapter with a plea for serious study of our future prospects. As with his first book, this one too is quite weak in the area of definitions, and contains no index at all. Kahn does define many technical terms, but frequently the definition does not appear until many pages—even several chapters—after the word was used. A consolidated list of key words with their meanings, as Kahn defines them, would be a tremendous aid to the reader. In spite of these weaknesses—lack of continuity, definitions and index—*Thinking About the Unthinkable* should be read by every serious student of strategy.

Cadwell, Roy. *Communism in the Modern World*. Philadelphia: Dorrance, 1962, 251 p.

'Communism is a diabolical system, conceived in hate, nurtured by resentment, and framed by an iron-bound system of control that stifles the lives, the hearts, and the minds of the people it embraces.' This is the theme of Mr. Cadwell in his complete denunciation of the communistic system of government in today's modern world. In his book, the author attempts to investigate first the attitudes of the communist leaders in the fields of foreign policy, economics, power politics, agriculture, colonization, and their use of propaganda and words as weapons. He then delves