

1961

Countdown for Decision

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Recommended Citation

Medaris, John B. (1961) "Countdown for Decision," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 14 : No. 1 , Article 6.
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol14/iss1/6>

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BOOKS

Elder, Robert E. *The Policy Machine: The Department of State and American Foreign Policy*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1960. 238.

This is a particularly valuable and significant study on the making of United States foreign policy. Its two major virtues are: First, it contains a highly detailed and specific description of the procedures through which recommendations go before becoming policy; and second, it deals more fully with the role of public opinion than any other comparable book.

Baumbach, Werner. *The Life and Death of the Luftwaffe*. New York: Coward-McCann, 1960. 224 p.

The Life and Death of the Luftwaffe describes many important milestones of the German Air Force from its inception to its agonizing defeat. The human element is most conspicuous as the story unfolds from the diary of the Luftwaffe's most notable bomber pilot, Werner Baumbach, General of the Bombers. The fatal decision of planning and preparing for a short war, inability to reconcile short-term emergencies with long-term planning, overcentralized control and erratic policy, political intrigue, exhaustion of Germany's raw materials, interservice rivalry, man power depletions, destruction of factories and facilities and failure of the last ditch secret weapons (V-1 and V-2) to turn the tide of the war are presented in a most interesting and lucid manner. The book is a most comprehensive work on the German Luftwaffe, and a halfway house to subsequent historical investigation and judgment.

Medaris, John B. *Countdown for Decision*. New York: Putnam, 1960. 303 p.

This book, a very frank and engrossing report on the United States' missile and space programs from the

viewpoint of the past head of the ABMA at Redstone Arsenal, may well be one of the most controversial written in the defense field for many years.

Potter, Elmer B. and Chester W. Nimitz, eds. *Sea Power: A Naval History*. Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey: Prentice-Hall, 1960. 932 p.

Sea Power: A Naval History was produced as a project of the Naval History Committee at the United States Naval Academy. Although this is a multi-author effort, editing has produced a volume which achieves a unity of style that is easily read and understood. The length of this reference should not discourage the casual reader or the researcher, since it is well compartmented and summarized.

Crozier, Brian. *The Rebels*. Boston: Beacon, 1960. 256 p.

This is an intriguing and extremely interesting portrayal of the leaders who foment insurrection, terrorism and sudden death. The author, Brian Crozier, clearly demonstrates that a successful rebellion can be initiated only by a combination of the natural rebel and appropriate timing and circumstances. The man and the moment must coincide. In this excellent book, it is the circumstances of rebellion that come out much more clearly than the personalities who utilize them. The author delves into the origins of outbreaks, the techniques of rebellion and repression—this in minute detail—and the personality and character of the successful rebel leader. The author's close examination of the background, education and determination of such headline personages as Fidel Castro of Cuba, Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Archbishop Makarios of Greece, Ho Chi Minh of Vietnam, Ferhat Abbas of Algeria, Sumitro of Indonesia and many others is captivating.