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Two Fleets Surprised

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BOOKS

Atkinson, James D. *The Edge of War*. Chicago: Regnery, 1960. 318 p.

Very adroitly and effectively Mr. Atkinson has recognized and analyzed Communist strategy in its deadliest form. Similarly, he has portrayed what he contends to be a failure on our part to view the East-West conflict in its proper perspective—i.e., no war and no peace. One of his basic points is that the American way plays the game fundamentally aboveboard and according to the rules, and the Soviets play to win, no matter how base or immoral the strategy employed.

In concluding, the author has tried to make the American people and their leaders understand the Communist challenge—and its meaning—and accept it; to make them understand and accept the challenge of unconventional warfare in the continuing no war, no peace atmosphere.

Seth, Ronald. *Two Fleets Surprised*. London: Geoffrey Bles, 1960. 201 p.

Two Fleets Surprised is an accurate, highly readable account of the naval action between elements of the Italian and British navies at Cape Matapan, off the coast of southwest Greece. Written in detail, and with sufficient technical data to hold the interest of the professional man-of-war man, it presents the strategic and tactical aspects leading to and employed during the sea battle. Included in the description are eyewitness accounts of the surprise suffered by, and later actions of, the two Italian cruisers destroyed in a night action of three minutes' duration. The remarks concerning communications, sea-air coordination and tactics employed make this book well worth a careful reading.