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Polaris!

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BOOKS

Ellis, Harry B. *Challenge in the Middle East: Communist Influence and American Policy*. New York: Ronald, 1960. 238 p.

Harry B. Ellis, an experienced newspaper correspondent, has worked in the Middle East from 1952 until the present. His book is a current report of Communist penetration of this area and his conclusions about American policy. The author contends that "the national interests of the United States and those of the Middle Eastern peoples are compatible, whereas the national interests of the Soviet Bloc and the nations of the Middle East are not," and explains that "Arab leaders, notably President Nasser, are far more deeply concerned about the dangers of Communist influence than is realized by many in the West."

Baar, James and William E. Howard. *Polaris!* New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1960. 245 p.

The development of the most fabulous weapon system in the modern deterrent arsenal, the Polaris missile-armed nuclear submarine, is vividly and factually presented in this very entertaining book. The achievement of this near miraculous feat in the brief span of five years from conception to a fully operational system is dramatically recounted in minute detail. Although much publicity has been given to the Polaris program during the recent past, the authors have been most successful in compiling a very comprehensive and worth-while résumé of the actual operations of the Navy Special Projects Office, the unique organization responsible for the success of the project. The human element is effectively injected in the form of brief biographical sketches of the individuals through whose efforts success was obtained. A degree of excitement, normally found only in a novel, is ever present due to the never-ending race against time and the many setbacks and heartbreaks which

repeatedly threatened the program. *Polaris* is recommended not only as a complete chronological reference covering the development of the weapon system itself, but as an insight into the immensely complex problem of developing modern armaments, their expense, the interrelationship between the military and industry and the inner workings within the Department of Defense.

Hahn, Walter F. and John C. Neff, eds. *American Strategy for the Nuclear Age*. Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1960. 455 p.

This book is a compilation of thirty-three essays, articles and lectures written or presented by a number of authorities in America today on the many problems relating to the gigantic power struggle in which the Free World and the Communist Bloc are engaged. It is divided into six parts commencing with the presentation of the situation which exists, and evolving through the nature of the Communist threat, the strategy and tactics of the Communist adversary, the problems of devising a military strategy to insure security, the difficulties of formulating an economic strategy to cope with the Soviet economic threat, and ending with a summary consisting of three chapters on what is to be done to meet the challenge by Dean Acheson, David Sarnoff and Frank R. Barnett. In addition to the above, contributors include such noteworthies as Arnold Wolfers, Walt Rostow, General Arthur G. Trudeau, Henry A. Kissinger, Hanson Baldwin, Albert Wohlstetter, Stefan T. Possony, Gerhart Niemeyer, John von Neumann and Robert Strausz-Hupé. The book cannot be said to be all-inclusive, but within the space available in one volume the editors have presented a very comprehensive account of the Free World's power struggle against Communism.