

1961

Duel at the Brink

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BOOKS

Lukacs, John A. *A History of the Cold War*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1961. 288 p.

This book, while manifestly only an outline of the history of the Cold War, traces the thread of its development with care and great clarity. A flashback technique from the confrontation of United States and Russian troops in April 1945 traces briefly the history of the two countries up to the beginning of the Second World War. Subsequently, the author leads the reader down the twisting, turning corridor which represents the course of the 15 years following the close of World War II. He very artfully weaves into the pattern all the side issues, and with masterful self-restraint, gives the reader an appreciation of these subsidiary issues without slowing down the pace of the story.

Glazer, Nathan. *The Social Basis of American Communism*. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1961. 244 p.

This brief but excellent study of the membership of the American Communist Party deals with two major questions. First, from what social, political, economic and ethnic strata did the Communist Party recruit its membership? Second, why did persons from these groups join the Party? In answering these questions, Dr. Glazer discusses three other related problems: Why was the Party desirous of attracting certain types of membership? What arguments were used to appeal to these various audiences? And, implicit in the foregoing, why was the Party able to draw a membership of only 100,000 or so even during its heyday?

Drummond, Roscoe and Coblenz, Gaston. *Duel at the Brink*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1960. 240 p.

This work is a collection of the impressions of 14 present and former government heads and 42 senior

diplomats concerning the record of John Foster Dulles as Secretary of State. These impressions are intricately woven into a very readable account of the six momentous years during which Secretary Dulles was the very embodiment of United States foreign policy. By relying throughout upon the opinions of responsible United States and foreign officials, the authors have produced an intimate picture of their subject as seen by his most important associates, and they go far to explain the basis of his immense personal stature in world affairs.

Beer, Kenneth E., ed. *The U.S.A. Answers; a Guide to Understanding*. New York: U.S. and World Publications, 1961. 248 p.

This is a compilation of some 1800 questions, with answers, that are representative of the fields of inquiry about the United States by foreign nationals at the American Exhibition in Moscow, 1959, and at the Italia '61 Exhibition in Turin. At both of these exhibitions an IBM RAMAC 305 computer was set up as a "giant encyclopedia." By merely pushing a button the questioner could ask his question and within a few seconds get the answer in his own language.