

1960

## Beyond Survival

Max Ways

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## BOOKS

Ways, Max. *Beyond Survival*. New York, Harper, 1959. 250 p.

*Beyond Survival* comes to grips with an issue that is rarely discussed at the Naval War College — except, ironically in occasional Global Strategy Discussions committees or in some student committees as their members back and fill during the process of getting oriented to produce a group paper entitled “U. S. (or USSR) National Security Interests, Objectives, and Basic Undertakings.” The book was written as a result of a charter received from publisher Henry Luce, who asked Max Ways, a senior editor of *Time* to survey the United States’ postwar foreign policy. In his guest, Mr. Ways quite evidently came up against the hard fact that there is apparently a philosophical void beyond the stated aims of our foreign policy. He suggests that what is needed is statement of national purpose based on moral, ethical and legal tenets, that would transcend our presently stated purposes such as survival, national interest and even, surprisingly, peace. He analyzes his position against a background of the several important aspects of United States foreign policy — military, political, economic and psycho-sociological — giving thoughtful consideration to the effect that the philosophical vacuum he has identified has had on each. To support his thesis, he explores the difference between the public philosophy that is Communism’s basis as compared to the lack of one behind our democracy. In this exploration, he gives considered thought to the role of the citizens of our democracy in the distillation of policy and in the maintenance of a two-way channel of communications between themselves and their political leaders. He feels that the Western world is currently at a low point in history in this regard, and as a result, the top political leaders are not always able to focus on central issues. Instead they find themselves lost in continuing, unreasonable discussions relative to means to be employed in attaining ends not solidly rooted in an unwavering national moral purpose. If public philosophy based on legal and moral purpose is clear and can be iterated

in broad principles, he feels, the people can then determine, criticize and manage policy properly for themselves.

One doesn't have to agree with all Mr. Ways' detailed premises to find this book exciting and thought-provoking. It is, moreover, a thoughtful attempt to explore what the author considers to be an ideological vacuum behind our national aims and objectives, the political results of it that are operative today, and some suggestions as to how constructively to fill this vacuum so that our nation will have a working public philosophy. Henry Luce contributes an interesting foreword which outlines the background for this work and takes gentle exception to some of Mr. Ways' overly pessimistic observations and positions. All in all, a worthwhile volume for every War College officer, and one which is particularly timely in the light of the task assigned to the students of creating a National Security paper in the Strategy Studies curriculum item of the course in Naval Warfare.

Nicholas, Jack D. et al. *The Joint and Combined Staff Officer's Manual*. Harrisburg, Pa., Stackpole, 1959. 272 p.

This is a timely and much needed manual for all staff officers of all services. Designed primarily as a guide for officers assigned to U. S. joint and allied combined commands, it applies equally well to all officers, and is recommended as required reading for many service schools and senior officers. This book fills a definite gap in the professional reading and reference book library of military officers. It contains a compilation of joint principles and procedures, and describes the operational planning underlying joint and combined action. It includes excellent analyses of the new unified command concept; what is involved in joint and combined planning; and the relationship between national strategy and military strategy. It defines, and places in their proper relationship to the whole, the rather elusive terms: the national interest, national interests, national objectives, national policies, national commitments, national principles, national strategy and military strategy. Of