

1959

Dragon and Sickle

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review of the peoples, the territory, and the problems of the Middle East; and second, a collection of documents relating to old and new developments in that area. The historical review presents in capsule form an outline of the geographic, demographic, social, political and economic factors which have contributed to the evolution and complexity of the Middle Eastern nations as currently constituted. Special attention is given to the matters of nationalism, oil, the Suez Canal, Soviet interest in the area, and Israel — with, perhaps, a disproportionate share of the limited text being accorded the last. This section of the book has the virtue of giving the reader, in short space, the main features of a critical and complicated area in which the United States has great interest. It raises important questions of policy alternatives. The section suffers, however, from its brevity in that significant elements are not thoroughly analyzed nor adequately interrelated. It undertakes no critical appraisal of policy decisions; it offers no policy proposals for the area. (This point may be excused as the collection of documents is for the avowed purpose of guiding “the citizen in formulating his own view of United States’ policy in this troubled zone”). The selected documents relate to the Suez Canal, the state of Israel, the Eisenhower Doctrine and various contemporary occurrences in the Middle East. It is advantageous to have such a collection readily at hand in a single volume.

Wint, Guy. *Dragon and Sickle*. New York, Praeger, 1959. 107 p.

A timely and readable summary of the Communist seizure of China, and of the changing relations between Moscow and the Chinese Communist Party. Highlight discussions include Mao's subordination of Communist dogma to opportunistic action, and his strategy for military revolution; Stalin's original indifference to Mao's progress, and his abortive effort to spread Communism throughout Asia on the Chinese pattern; and Khrushchev's reversal of the old Comintern ban on advancement of Communist aims through parliamentary

action. Although not too well documented, the author's facts appear correct and his theories credible. It is unfortunate for the student that the reading list mentioned in the book's table of contents is non-existent.

PERIODICALS

"Second Phase of Geneva Talks Closes without Agreement."

The Department of State Bulletin, August 24, 1959, p. 265-270. Secretary Herter's statement at the closing session of the Meeting of Foreign Ministers at Geneva on August 5, together with the text of a Four Power communique issued at the close of the meeting, a Four Power declaration on disarmament, and Mr. Herter's statement upon his return to Washington on August 6.

Drake, Col. C. B. "Decision: The Essence of Command."

Marine Corps Gazette, August 1959, p. 54-57.

Considers four ways in which leaders are concerned with the process of decision and three distinct areas in which they find cause to make a decision.

Thayer, Charles W. "Our Ambassadors." *Harper's Magazine*, September 1959, p. 29-35.

A retired career diplomat gives an intimate appraisal of our diplomatic system and the men who practice it.

"Where We Would Disarm if"; "Where We Would Disengage if."
Newsweek, August 24, 1959, p. 36-38.

NATO and Soviet military strength is compared graphically and statistically, and the chances for disarmament and disengagement are weighed.

Geyl, Pieter. "The Myth of European Unity." *The New Leader*, August 31, 1959, p. 18-21.

A European historian presents reasonable objections that may be made to the supranational institutions aimed at European unity.