

America, Sea Power, and the World, 2nd ed.

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the East and South China Seas, or for a sense of how China is likely to approach international laws and institutions of all sorts, they will find Kardon's analysis useful. This is a necessary addition to the bookshelf of any scholar who hopes to understand how China's rise will strain the existing rules-based order.

GREGORY POLING



America, Sea Power, and the World, ed. James C. Bradford and John F. Bradford. 2nd ed. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2023. 496 pages. \$46.95.

While the first edition of *America, Sea Power, and the World* dates only to 2016, new lessons have been learned and new challenges to American sea power have arisen in sufficient numbers to make a new edition timely and useful. Recently retired from the Navy, John F. Bradford has partnered with his father, James, on editing the second edition, "to help improve the volume's ability to communicate with today's midshipmen and the contemporary fleet" (p. xxi). Among the four new chapters are "Toward a More Diverse Navy" and "Steaming Back into a Multipolar World," which help describe the composition of today's Navy and the adversaries it may soon be called on to confront.

All authors who contributed to the first edition have returned, providing updates and refinements to their sections as needed. Each chapter features vignettes that explore individuals and innovations related to its subject in greater depth; most first-edition vignettes have returned and fit well. However, a new vignette on Matthew Fontaine Maury replacing one on David Glasgow Farragut seems out of place in a chapter

discussing the American Civil War. It covers Maury's scientific pursuits, publications, support of proslavery naval expeditions to South America, and leadership of the Naval Observatory, but his service with the Confederate navy receives only a few concluding sentences. This vignette would be more appropriate in a previous chapter covering revolutions in naval technology and the sectional debates that swept the United States throughout the mid-1800s.

On occasion, authors do leave the reader wanting additional detail: the nature of resistance encountered by M. C. Perry at Okinawa or why a board of inquiry following the Battle of Santiago de Cuba might have ruled unfavorably toward W. S. Schley, for example. With that said, *America, Sea Power, and the World* is a textbook intended to provide a common background for students of American naval history, not necessarily an encyclopedic knowledge thereof. On that level, the book works very well. The Bradfords have brought together over two dozen scholars and diverse subject matter almost seamlessly. The result is a well-organized and easily absorbed narrative. Strategically placed citations allow a student to dig deeper when desired.

Among the changes made for the second edition was a chapter discussing World War II's Mediterranean theater separate from the Atlantic. In "Assault on Occupied Europe," Commander Stan Fisher from the U.S. Naval Academy's History Department gives an astute analysis of the challenges the Allies faced in fighting a two-ocean war. He also provides insightful material on how U.S. Army leaders were initially skeptical about the utility of naval gunfire in supporting land operations, but successes at Salerno and Naples soon changed their minds. This

discussion of interservice friction is but one example of one chapter setting the stage for another; in “Defense Unification and Joint Operations,” Professor Scott Mobley asserts, “Lying at the heart of past and current debates are tensions between the drive to unify and the diverse reasons for which each service exists” (p. 327). This reinforces the notion that while equipment and circumstances change, the basic challenges faced by navies have remained largely the same.

Former surface warfare officer Kristy Kamarck discusses some of these changing circumstances with “Toward a More Diverse Navy,” where she presents a nuanced view of how and why the demographics of the U.S. Navy have changed so rapidly since the mid-twentieth century. Threaded throughout is the question whether allowing underrepresented groups to serve will undermine Navy morale and effectiveness. Also hotly debated today is what role social justice should play in the service. Kamarck points out that in some cases, such as women serving in the Naval Reserve during World War I contributing to the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment (p. 351), military service has encouraged positive change in the civilian sector. Kamarck also suggests that “the rich diversity of backgrounds, skills, and experience that [various personnel] bring into the service” can be another source of strength for today’s Navy and Marine Corps (p. 344). This is especially important to remember as the sea services continue to operate as part of an all-volunteer force. The final three chapters do an excellent job of summarizing the past thirty years of American naval history and pointing the student toward likely future challenges. Since achieving maritime dominance following the Cold War, the United States

has pivoted toward countering nonstate actors and fighting in regional conflicts, only to pivot back toward great-power competition against Russia and China. While China concentrates on East Asia to put the most pressure on neighboring states, the United States debates whether to maintain a global forward presence or the ability to surge forces in times of crisis (pp. 397, 408). Maintaining a global presence has also become more complicated by receding polar ice opening more of the Arctic Ocean to direct exploitation and power projection. All the while, advances in ballistic missile defense, stealth, autonomous systems, and especially cyberspace stand to offer new advantages to those most willing to master them.

Beginning with discussions of mercantilism and European colonialism and concluding with naval involvement in the American withdrawal from Afghanistan and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the new edition of *America, Sea Power, and the World* offers lessons from centuries of American naval history. Throughout the narrative runs a theme of the Navy adapting to change and rising to new challenges. The Bradfords’ work is one tool with which future naval personnel can prepare to continue that trend in the years to come.

MICHAEL ROMERO



China, Faits Accomplis and the Contest for East Asia: The Shadow of Shifting Power, by Joshua Adam Hastey. London: Routledge, 2023. 172 pages. \$128.

An outgrowth of the author’s doctoral dissertation at Old Dominion University, *China, Faits Accomplis and the Contest for East Asia* examines the