

Short Reviews of Recent Books

Captive Princes Zebunissa - Daughter of Emperor Aurangzeb. *Annie Krieger Krynicki (Karachi : Oxford University Press, 2005), 216p, Rs. 450.00, ISBN 0-19-579837-6.*

The book is authored by a French lady who has written many books and articles about the constitutional and political life in Pakistan, and was awarded *Sitara-e-Quaid-i-Azam*.

It deals with the life of Zebunissa, eldest daughter of Mughal King Aurangzeb, who was different than the other ladies of the Mughal Court. She was an accomplished poetess, wrote her own *Diwan*, built a personal library, employed a large number of scribes and translators and was influenced by *Sufism*. She did not play a major part in the Court, which many royal ladies did during various reigns. Yet she was imprisoned for over 20 years in Salimagarh Fort for sympathising with her youngest brother who had rebelled against her father. The major part of the book, however, deals with political history of the time reflecting qualities of ambition, lies, bribery and deceit which characterised the life of high personages of the time, who would not think twice before killing their brethren.

At some places the dates and names have got mixed up. The book is of interest to a limited readership.

Colonel V K Singh, VSM (Retd)

Islam, The State and Population. *Gavin W Jones and Mehtab S Karim (eds), (Karachi : Oxford University Press, 2005), 286p, Rs. 595.00, ISBN 0-19-5470044.*

The book is a collection of articles on population policies, fertility trends and reproduction health situation in the major Muslim majority countries. Birth control has been a polemical issue in the Islamic theology from the earliest days. Most Muslim jurists permit it for reasons of health, economic hardship and social responsibilities using natural methods of withdrawal (*azl*) and abstinence. In the *Quran* there is no direct reference in favour of or against family planning. Mehtab S Karim in his scholarly essay "Islamic Teachings on Reproduction Health" puts forward views of various schools of Islamic thought on this subject which dispel many misconceptions.

Interestingly, the book argues that there appears to be no pattern of reproduction behaviour which could be described as Islamic. Islam as

such seems to be neither a hindrance nor a stimulating factor in fertility decline, at the global level while socio-economic factors may have played an important role in early fertility reduction in Muslim countries. Effective family planning programmes seem to have become the more important factor in achieving end results. The essays are supported by maps, tables and figures. Though India is not a Muslim majority country, it has the second largest Muslim population in the world. It would have made the study more interesting if a country with a large Muslim minority was also included to present a more comprehensive picture. The book is a valuable addition to the study of demographic pattern of Muslim countries.

Commodore M R Khan (Retd)

State Terrorism and Political Identity in Indonesia : Fatally Belonging.
Ariel Heryanto (London and New York : Routledge 2006), 242p, price not indicated, ISBN 0-415-37152-X.

Indonesia celebrated six decades of independence this year. These decades have been eventful and sometimes traumatic. The Dutch colonial power took four years to concede legal recognition to its independence. Later, the attempted coup in 1965 polarised the polity and unleashed an orgy of violence against communists and their sympathisers. The unfolding of events at that time is still a subject of controversy: who was responsible for the abortive coup and what was the role of the external powers-the United States and China. The result was removal of Dr. Sukarno as President and takeover of power by General Soharto, who ruled the country until another traumatic event - the economic crisis which engulfed Southeast Asia in 1997-8.

Ironically, General Soeharto used the same legal provisions to gain and entrench himself in power as were used by Dr Sukarno when he introduced "Guided Democracy" with himself as the arbiter. He introduced the anti-subversion law, which was used extensively by Soeharto's government to suppress its opponents.

Dr. Heryanto illustrates the process of suppression by narrating the case of a few students in the institutes of higher learning in Yogyakarta, who were arrested for selling the books of Promoeida A Toer, an internationally known writer whose works have been translated into several languages. Toer was arrested after the abortive coup in 1965 and was among those released as a result of insistence on human rights by President Carter of the United States. The sale of books took place after his release. In narrating the case, the writer introduces ideas which may have significance beyond Indonesia's borders.

He says whatever be the ideological persuasion, the students are seen as apolitical and morally motivated. Further, the relationship between the intellectuals and the security officials is based on mutual fear and anxiety. The security officials believe that subversive elements work for an underground movement in small units of a bigger organisation which is likely to have overseas links. The security organs create a sense of fear among the population, which is a form of 'state terrorism'.

He suggests 'state terrorism' "combines and mediates two distinct forces of power: coercion and consent; violence and reward/persuasion; or the material and the mental." He also comments on the approach of the security agents: "faced with contradictions or incoherencies in their intelligence work, they may try to resolve them rationally. But ultimately their main task is not to accomplish accurate analysis and a completely coherent narrative; it is to take resolute actions."

Thus, Dr Haryanto's book may be of interest to internal security specialists, apart from students of Indonesia's history.

S K Bhutani, IFS (Retd)

Dissent and Opposition in Communist Eastern Europe. Origins of Civil Society and Democratic Transition. *Detlef Pollack and Jan Wielgohs (eds), (Hants, UK : Ashgate, 2004), 275p, £ 55.00, ISBN 0-7546-3790-5.*

The subject of this book is the transition from what was called state socialism to what is now called democracy in East Europe and the former Soviet Union. The book is organised into individual country case studies, and instances of certain general propositions of crisis and transition. Dissidence is defined, as the repudiation of the regime itself, not as a mere critique of it. It forced the discourse of human rights and compelled the regime to defend itself as per universally accepted criteria. The editors identify three models of change in the 1980s. In the first model, a faction within the regime is able to break off, overcome opponents, and lead the reform, as in Russia, Bulgaria, and even Romania, despite the execution of the Ceausescu clan. In the second, a faction of the regime split, but is not able to control the reform, and the opposition from outside determines the process, as in Czechoslovakia and the German Democratic Republic. In the third model, the change is a negotiated settlement between the reformers within the regime and the opposition outside, as in Hungary and Poland, and even Estonia. But throughout, the opposition to the regimes did not induce the crises, with the exception of Solidarity in Poland in the

1980s. The other revolts and opposition are - Berlin 1953, Hungary 1956, Czechoslovakia 1968. These were instances of attempts to reform the regimes. Only the delegitimisation of the regime rather than reforms from within could lead to the dramatic results of the 1980s. This was achieved by dissidence, by the human rights campaigns based on universal principles, and by the foreign networks which did so much to sustain them.

Prof. Madhavan K Palat

Commercial Satellite Imagery and United Nations Peacekeeping, A View from Above. Rob Heuhert (ed), (England : Ashgate, 2004), 251p, £ 55.00, ISBN 0-7546-1072-1.

Commercial Satellite Imagery (CSI) is increasingly affecting the world in roles associated with United Nations (UN) peacekeeping and humanitarian operations, apart from telephony, television and radio broadcasts. Canada is a major producer and consumer of this imagery. It has strong connections with the UN peacekeeping operations.

The book comprises of papers from the conference held at the University of Calgary towards the end of the year 2000. The principal focus was to understand the impact that CSI has had on the international system. CSI is defined as unclassified satellite imagery publicly offered for a fee on a routine basis, whether by a public agency or a private firm.

Two experts examined cost effectiveness of and financial aspects of CSI. Another looked at the new trends. Experts also studied the development of geo-spatial technology for nuclear information management. Detection of new nuclear military assets or transportation of equipment is important. With the end of the Cold War, the UN experienced an upsurge in demand for peacekeeping operations. Initially, many involved liquidation of Cold War-related disputes, and were handled with relative success. Then came the Gulf War and, in retrospect, vastly and prematurely ambitious hopes for a UN role in maintaining international peace and security. A series of highly visible failures - in Somalia, the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, in particular, followed and demonstrated complex demands being made on the UN in peacekeeping operations. All the same, CSI operations are being privatised rapidly as governments alone cannot cope with the growing demand.

A well-brought out compilation, of interest to officials of Ministry of External Affairs and Defence Forces.

Commodore R P Khanna, AVSM (Retd)

An Instinct For War. Roger Spiller (Cambridge : Harvard University Press, 2005), 403p, price not indicated, ISBN 0-674-01941-5.

Roger Spiller, "excavates the essence of war and its evolution...from the perspective of an ancient Chinese Emperor to Napoleon's command, from a Civil War...to the particularities of today's small wars throughout the globe."

The nature of war is woven through narratives such as a Florentine bureaucrat, imprisoned for conspiracy, in conversation with his guard, considering how, "a virtuous republic may take possession of wars purposes". Then there are memoirs of an imperialist recalling "modern imperialism invade the New World to ignite a war between cultures." There is also an account of "a Napoleonic Surgeon who journeys through battles, human landscape where courage and cowardice fight side by side". The last makes a very absorbing read.

Some chapters of this book are in the nature of a compilation of human aspects of war. The chapter titled 'The very last civil war historian', takes the form of letters from a Colonel wounded in the 'American Civil War'. These letters are to his wife and to his father; of good cheer in spite of the pending amputation of his foot and subsequent death. This and other stories of war are meant to, as the Prologue puts it, speak of war in a certain way; how we have thought about its nature, its many shapes and its conduct. "Human Rain", Chapter nine is the story of war between ancient empires in the Manchurian wastes. It unveils the face of industrial combat at the dawn of the Twentieth Century.

"Is modern war too terrible for human beings to fight? Will war annihilate itself with its own efficiency?"

An absorbing study of the human aspects of war from time immemorial to the present day. It is not, however, a study of professional aspects of warfare.

Lieutenant General A M Vohra, PVSM (Retd)

Russian Security and Air Power 1992-2002 : The Development of Russian Security Thinking under Yeltsin and Putin and its Consequences for the Air Force. Marcel de Haas (London : Frank Cass, 2004), 237 p. Price not indicated, ISBN 0-714-65608-9.

This is an excellent book giving professional insight into contemporary Russian Air Force. It becomes even more crucial when one considers that little was publically available on the erstwhile Soviet Air Arm during the Cold War years.

The book covers decision making from the highest political level down to the tactical level. The aim of the author is to assess the effect of political-strategic decision making on use of airpower in Chechnya and Dagestan which witnessed insurrection during the last decade. As in the West, in Russia too, strategic analysts have started subscribing to the idea of centrality of air power in conflicts, internal, external and conventional. The analysis reveals that contribution of Russian Air Force has increased qualitatively as well as quantitatively since 1992. But it is still way behind the western capability. The underlying causes being poor funding (10 per cent of the Defence budget for the Air Force vs 30 per cent in most Western Countries), poor training (average of 29 flying hours Vs 150 to 200 hours in the West), poor maintenance, low quantity of Precision Guided Munitions (PGMs) and rather limited flying ability in bad weather and at night.

The next major problem for the Russian Air Power has been its frequent fragmented command and control arrangement. It had centralised command and control for aviation during World War I. However, during the inter war years and till May 1942 the Command got fragmented under Ground Forces. This resulted in undermining of effectiveness of the Soviet Air Power contributing to defeat. In Spring 1942, the entire aviation was once again placed under the Air Force. This arrangement continued till 1980. The Soviet Air Power was parcelled out under Military Districts with negative consequences. Finally in 1988, the Command was once again centralised under the Air Force.

In 1988, Air Defence Forces were merged with the Air Force; air arms of other Services were amalgamated into Air Force and finally the Army Aviation, majority of which comprised the vast helicopter fleets, was merged into Russian Air Force in 2003. This change of great magnitude was also a result of change in the doctrinal outlook. The Soviet Air Power's main task, since the start of military aviation was to provide air support for ground operations. Post-World War II, the strategic bomber force had its nuclear role, yet the rest of the airpower remained oriented to the tactical role. This has changed in the last decade with the new doctrine more aligned to the Western airpower doctrines.

What the changes signify is that once again the Russians seem to be on the correct path doctrinally and organisationally to be able to exploit modern air power capabilities. How much down this line they will travel will depend upon future allocation of resources to the Air Power, flexibility and realism in training and actual utilisation of air power. In this context, the book is informative and timely.

Air Vice Marshal A K Tiwary, VSM

Birds of Kangra. Jan Willem Den Besten (New Delhi : Mosiac and Mompeak Publishers, 2004), 173p, Rs. 395.00

One of the finer points of the history of Indian ornithology is the pioneering role of the Indian Army Officers in the exploration and documentation of India's avifauna. The contributions of Major General Thomas Hardwicke, Major T C Jerdon, Lieutenant Colonel R S Tickelle, Colonel Sykes and Major Franklin have been immense. Jerdon's book *Birds of India* in three volumes published in 1862-64 was the summation of the collective knowledge of the "five" and also of other ornithologists.

This legacy of the "five" attracted many more from the succeeding generations of Army Officers. The birds of Kangra Valley were for the first time systematically explored and 255 species listed by Captain R W G Hingston of the Indian Medical Services (IMS) between 1918 and 1919.

Hingston had hoped that his list of the Kangra birds "may serve as a foundation on which others can build with further accuracy and precision". His wish was fulfilled when Hugh Whistler was posted as the Superintendent of Police, Dharamsala in 1920. Whistler was an accomplished ornithologist and in due course was to become Salim Ali's mentor. When Whistler published his list of birds of Kangra, his count stood at 403 species.

Beston carries forward Whistler's bird count for the Kangra Valley from 403 to an all time high of 555 species by 2003 ! It is not as though more species have since evolved or mutated but simply because the creation of Pong Dam has begun to add a large number of water-bird species as well to the Kangra List.

Beston's book has three unique attributes. Firstly, unlike the academic ornithologist, he delights in his surroundings with empathy and compassion at the personal level. Secondly, he has illustrated the text with over 500 photographs shot by him. The photograph of the Dhauladhar mountainscape with Barheaded Geese in the foreground (pp.10-11), the portrait of the Great Barbet (p.106), the flock of Long-tailed Minivets in flight (pp.112) and an interloper among birds, the Yellow-throated Marten (p.29) are his master-pieces. And lastly, Beston recounts local legend or folklore pertaining to each connected group of birds with sensitivity and reverence as for instance, the retelling of the "epic tale" of the Great Barbet (p.107).

Beston has above all crowned his love of birds by having His Holiness the *Dalai Lama* to write the first page of *Birds of Kangra*.

Indeed, the book captures the rich bird-life of the Kangra Valley in its essence.

Lieutenant General Baljit Singh, AVSM (Retd)

Treasures of Indian Wild Life. A S Kothari and B F Chhapgar (New Delhi : Oxford University Press, 2005), 212p, Rs. 1900.00, ISBN 0195677285.

The book describes not just the entire spectrum of India's fauna and flora but also provides fascinating glimpses into the early time of our rural settlement, their problems, prospects, social customs, superstitions, legends and folk lore. But to a perceptive reader, many passages would be like a poignant requiem on our wildlife. In a subsequent chapter, we learn that the lion was fully exterminated from North West India and Punjab by 1842. Then there is an article whose title alone sums up both the abundance and then the steady persecution of the tiger and much of other wildlife beginning 1837. Of the 76 full page colour illustrations, 62 are from John Gould's creations. The two-page spread of the tiger with his prey (a male Blue Bull) painted by William Kuhnert is mesmerising in the book.

The average reader may well wonder at the absence of works by Indian artists. By the time the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) was founded in 1883, works of Indian writers in this field had been siphoned through purchase or plunder to either the private collections of philanthropists or museums in Europe and the USA. The descriptive-text to the sole reproduction from the *Akbar Nama* says it all : "Emperor Akbar Hunting with Cheetahs. An illustrated copy of the *Akbar Nama* is in the collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London...It bears the signature of his son Jahangir and a seal of great grandson Aurangzeb. During the decline of the Mughal Empire the *Akbar Nama* fell into the hands of one Ahmed Ali Khan in 1793. It was purchased by Major General John Clark, the Commissioner of Oudh in 1896 and was acquired by the Victoria and Albert Museum from his widow...the manuscript contains 117 paintings illustrated by 56 (Indian) artists".

The rich collection of black and white reproductions fall in two categories: those dealing with wild-life are mostly from the works of Lieutenant Colonel R A Sterndale's *Denizens of the Jungle* 1886 and Major General Douglas Hamilton's *Records of Sport in Southern India* 1892 all executed by the authors themselves. The pencil drawings by James Forbes from his *Oriental Memories 1812-14* are matchless. What brings torrents of nostalgia is "Fattypore Sicri", drawn by William Purser, sketched by Captain Robert Elliot, from *Views in India, China and the Shores of the Red Sea, Vol I, 1835*.

Treasures of Indian Wildlife will certainly be a prized possession for any book-lover and a wake-up call for all Indians to save and cherish these "treasures".

Lieutenant General Baljit Singh, AVSM (Retd)

The Anglo-Maratha Campaigns and the Contest for India : The Struggle for Control of the South Asian Military Economy. *Randolf G S Cooper*, (New Delhi : Cambridge University Press, 2005), 437p, Rs. 695.00, ISBN 81-7596-250-X.

The book covers the Anglo Maratha Campaign against British Rule in India in six chapters, which include Maratha military culture, British perceptions and the road to war in 1803, the Deccan Campaign of 1803, the Hindustan Campaign of 1803, 'Coming In' and 'The Anatomy of Victory'. It is a product of a thoroughly researched project undertaken at the Cambridge University and brings out very interesting and revealing conclusions regarding the misconceptions perpetuated by the British authors about the Marathas and the manner in which they fought their wars.

The author highlights that unlike popular belief, the Mughal Army was secular with the very best drawn from all castes of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians. Similarly, he points out that the loss of the Maratha Army at the hands of Ahmed Shah Abdali in 1761 A.D. was as a result of having been "pinned down in its camp" and virtually "starved to the point of malnutrition and weakness" rather than for not having employed its famous guerrilla tactics. He further goes on to demolish the myth of the Maratha Armies being backward and "locked in time". He argues that "the Europeans failed to recognise that South Asian military culture was every bit as valid as their own; every bit as dedicated as their own".

Some other aspects which throw fresh light on Maratha military culture are that "Maratha armies sought and employed the competitive advantages offered by technology as well as doctrine" contradicting the myth that guerrilla warfare was the sole strategy adopted by the Marathas. He says, "Infantry warfare was not new, or an experiment, for the Marathas in 1803".

The book is a refreshing attempt at objective analysis of convenient stereotypes, which have been propagated to maintain the myths of European superiority as the basis for the victory of the British forces in India. It also analyses Indian folklore and supports prognosis with facts and logical deductions.

The book is highly recommended for libraries and individuals with an interest in history of the period as well as medieval military strategy.

Lieutenant Colonel Vivek Chadha

Public Sector Reform : Governance in South Africa. *Karen Miller.* (Hampshire, England : Ashgate, 2004), 150p, £ 47.50, ISBN 0-7546-4315-8.

The study of governance, public policy and reforms in the public sector has been a neglected subject in most of the developing countries. To overcome this discrepancy, Karen Miller undertook research in this field in South Africa. This book is based on doctoral research conducted by the author. To provide her readers a wide base, the author has given an overview of public sector reforms and role of the senior public servants in Great Britain, the US, France and the Netherlands. She also analysed the system in South Africa, and the impact of apartheid on public sector reforms and the role played by politicians and bureaucrats in it. In the last chapter, she has given readers an idea of the future of South African Public Service and offered some valid recommendations for further reforms in the system.

The book has a definite relevance for Indian Administrators.

Major General Yatindra Pratap (Retd)

Reflections of An Old Soldier. *Col R N Khanna (Retd).* (New Delhi : Bookmart Publishers, 2005), 260p, Rs. 300.00, ISBN 81-87583150.

The author has written a biographical account of various events, episodes, and values inherited by him from his parents, which moulded his life. Born and brought up in undivided west Punjab, he has recounted the transition from a harmonious life with people of different religions and communities living with dignity to the turmoil created by partition when different communities came to fear each other and had to flee across geographical boundaries dividing India and Pakistan. It was during this period that he got commissioned into the Army Ordnance Corps. He has been a keen observer of transition in the past few decades with India improving technologically, influence of western values on our youth, and dilution of old values imbibed from our forefathers.

The language of the book is laced with patriotic and moralistic fervour. Suitable excerpts from the *Gita*, poems and statements of renowned personalities have been included to exhort the youth to strive for selfless contribution to national growth, and to restore India's pristine cultural and philosophical glory.

The book also contains gists of battles fought by the Indian Army ever since India gained independence in 1947 down to the Kargil operations in 1999. This is a valuable input for a quick reference to these events at one place.

Overall, the book has been written with a forceful urge to rekindle the Indian ethos, with its inherent values. The book is educative and informative. It would be a valuable addition to all unit libraries in the Army as also to libraries of schools and colleges.

Major General Dinesh Chandra (Retd)

Japan's China Policy: A Relational Power Analysis. *Linus Hagstrom, (London : Routledge, 2005), 230p, £ 60.00, ISBN 0-415-34679-7.*

The book derives an understanding of Japan's power in international affairs through the application of the relational concept of power. The broad interface that has been maintained between Japan and China for more than two millennia is the focus of the book. Two selected issues – investment politics and dispute over the Pinnacle Islands are the dominating themes.

The book refers to statecraft as a means for the pursuit of foreign policy goals. Further, it points to the fact that both China and Japan tried to influence each other as well as World opinion by means of ideational statecraft. The author outlines that Japan's economic miracle of the 1960s and its impact has influenced its role in the international sphere. Despite Japan's higher expenditure on defence the *realists* do not accept the conclusion that Japan has a higher military power. The *neo-realists* would not grant Japan the status of a great power. It is observed that Japan's foreign policy is often complemented with ideas of structural power.

Japan's exercise of power in terms of reciprocal protection of investments is another fresh insight of the author. Liberalisation of Chinese market in particular and adoption of new laws has correlated positively with increased inflows of Japanese Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) into China. Problems concerning Japanese FDI in China were conspicuous on the bilateral agenda in the early and mid 1980s. Other contentious issues included the interpretation of history-most significantly Chinese outcries over the revival of militarism and Japan's relationship with Taiwan.

The policy instruments used by Japan with regard to issues of a "specific China policy" is highlighted. Japanese claim for Pinnacle Islands is based on the "principle of discovery occupation" in International Law. The author considers China's title to the Island as nebulous. Japan's cautious attitude towards China and its decision not to take more proactive action with regard to the Islands was also an instance of diplomatic statecraft. Japan adhered to ideational statecraft and the strategic use of non-action and it made no negative and offensive influencing attempts, but relied on positive and defensive ones. The book recommends that the relational concept of power makes an important contribution to foreign policy analysis. With the help of relational power analysis, Japanese foreign policy can now be portrayed more coherently in terms of power, making it less enigmatic and more intelligible.

To sum up, this book is in agreement with Green Hook and his colleagues that the image of Japan as enigmatic, inexplicable or abnormal is a myth, and it has found that this myth is conditioned on likewise enigmatic analytical approaches.

Shri Jeevan Prakash Mohanty and Shri Kamal Sharma

War and Nationalism in China 1925-1945. Hans J. van de Ven (London : Routledge, 2003), 377p, Price not indicated, ISBN 0-435-14571-6.

The book is an indepth study of internal conflicts in China in the first half of the twentieth century. These conflicts aimed to generate a feeling of nationalism and create a central rule in China after the fall of the *Qing* dynasty in 1912. The role of the legendary leader of China, Sun Yat Sen in the revolution of 1911, leading to the fall of the *Qing*, and his efforts to unite the nation till his death in March 1925 have been described in great detail. Sun Yat Sen died before he could achieve this feat and the mantle fell on Chiang Kai-shek, the military leader who had raised the First Army Corps, the military adjunct to the *Kuomintang* (KMT) party formed by Sun Yat Sen soon after the revolution of 1911. The Communist Party of China (CPC) was also formed around the same time under direct supervision of Russia, with active consent of Sun Yat Sen. The KMT and CPC formed a United Front in their quest for unification of China. Mao Ze Dong was, in fact, member of both the parties and Zhou En Lai was the political adviser to the First Army Corps which was commanded by Chiang Kai-shek.

The author has quoted profusely from the records and minutes of political meetings of the period to narrate the events leading to the formation of the central rule. After the fall of *Qing*, several warlords took over various regions, especially in the north, created their personal armies which controlled the peasantry and collected taxes from them. These war-lords refused to come under central rule. It fell to Chiang Kai-shek to invade them with his First Army Corps in 1926, after the death of Sun Yat Sen. He not only managed to overpower them but was also successful in making them surrender their armies which were amalgamated to form the centralised army called the National Revolutionary Army (NRA), under the Military Affairs Council of the KMT. The NRA was also commanded by Chiang Kai-shek.

The author highlights the inherent weakness of the KMT as a political party. Its motto was to first "seize military power, followed by a provisional constitution to readjust relations between military and civil governments and, finally, transition to a constitutional republic." Unfortunately, Chiang Kai-shek was not able to achieve the goal since he got involved in the war of resistance with the Japanese who had occupied Manchuria in 1930 and in 1940 they attacked southern China through Burma. This kept the Chinese Army occupied, along with some US forces under General Stilwell who was deputed by the Americans to be Chief of Staff to Chiang Kai-shek of the Allied Armies in the China Theatre. Stilwell led Chinese forces during the 1942 defeat of the Allies in Burma.

Mao Ze Dong, in the meanwhile, had split from KMT and had started forming the Red Army which eventually removed the KMT and NRA, along with Chiang Kai-shek who fled to Taiwan in 1949. These events have not been covered in the book as it restricts itself to the period till 1945. The book, however, covers General Stilwell's role in the Second World War along with the Chinese and British as allies in Burma campaign during 1940s. The author has tried to defend Chiang Kai-shek decision to not allow Chinese forces being placed under command of Stilwell even in Chinese territory, as was being sought by the USA. He has highlighted weaknesses in Stilwell's planning of operations in Burma. Apparently, Stilwell was quite contemptuous of both the British and Chinese military leadership. Nonetheless, this narrative gives an interesting insight into the clash of personalities at the highest level during the war. The book makes interesting reading of China's past historical setting.

Major General Dinesh Chandra (Retd)

Russian Military Reform 1992-2002. Anne C. Aldis and Roger N. McDermott (eds) (London : Frank Cass, 2005), 332p, £ 70.00, ISBN 0-7146-5475-2.

The book provides a deep insight into the Russian military reforms between the period 1992 and 2002. It highlights firstly, that no worthwhile reforms came about and secondly, that the armed forces have been progressively loosing their societal image. In addition, the army's performance showed low level of combat readiness, dismal performance in Chechnya because of poor funding and supply, criminality and corruption, 'Dedovshchina' (bullying), broken system of conscription and inherent mismatch of civil - military relations. This has lead to 'military building' rather than 'military reform'.

Russia could not settle its position in the community of nations. It failed to put together the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). This forced Russian Federation (RF) to form its own Armed Forces and a Ministry of Defence in 1992.

In the period 1992 to 2002, the RF sucessively conceived three National Security Concepts (NSC), two Foreign Policy Concepts (FPC) and four Military Documents (MD). In 1992 President Boris Yeltsin passed a decree that RF will have its own Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces.

The book brings out the history of the Military divided on the security policy and their hierarchy. The President did not promulgate the first National Security Concepts (NSC) till December 1997, as the security elite debated heavily on the foreign and security politics, embroiled in a power struggle while there was instability both at home (Chechen insurgency etc.) and externally in neighbouring CIS states of Moldavia, Georgia and Tajikistan,

not to mention the situation in the Balkans. Tackling these contingencies delayed codifying security policy into an NSC. Inconsistency was also the result of differences between military and civil experts in drafting the NSC because external threats and internal threats vied for their internal threats vied for their own place of importance.

11 September 2001 incident changed RF's status in CIS. The Military Doctrine (MD), in the meanwhile changed its stress from global and nuclear wars to domestic and regional armed conflicts, mainly because of paucity of funds.

A very informative book with well researched material. The situation as it prevails in the Russian Armed Forces has been well analysed. It also offers suggestion as to how the problems can be addressed.

Vice Admiral I J S Khurana, PVSM (Retd)

Pakistan : Democracy, Development and Security Issues. *Veena Kukreja and M P Singh (eds)* (New Delhi : Sage Publications, 2005), 301p, Rs. 360.00, ISBN 0-7619-3417-0

This book is an attempt to provide Indian, Pakistani and American scholarly perspectives on democracy, development and security issues in Pakistan. Arguing that the three themes are closely interlinked, the editors argue that the political and economic experience of the past 58 years shows that neither democracy nor capitalist development can survive without the other.

Using a variety of Pakistani, Indian and Western sources, the contributors examine the internal and external problems of Pakistan.

The book discusses several important issues, including obstacles to democracy in Pakistan, fundamental Islamic ideology, the politics of language, ethnic problems, terrorism which came to the fore following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and Pakistan's active support of the Afghan resistance.

The book focuses on the prospects of South Asian cooperation in a post 11 September 2001 world, the future of Indo-Pak relations, including long-term security threat that Pakistan poses to India, the ongoing peace process between India and Pakistan, and implications of cross-border terrorism for peace initiative.

It will be of great interest to all those who are interested in the study of domestic politics in Pakistan, Indo-Pak relations, comparative politics, political sociology and economics.

Shri I R Kumar

How to Plan Your Success, Step-by-Step. I R Kumar (New Delhi : Icon Publications Pvt. Ltd., 2006), 205p, Rs. 205.00, ISBN 81-88086-29-0.

Listed in the *Limca Book of Records*, 2004, the author has notched up another notable success with the publication of this self-help book. He derives his arguments from the ancient Hindu heritage of the country based on *Vedantas*.

Success is a rather many splendoured term, having different connotation according to ones value systems. It is normally related to wealth and materialistic achievements. The author, however, rightly states that 'Spiritual' success should be the real goal of life, which if pursued through the path of pleasure and peace will lead to the achievement of the ultimate goal of Super Success holistically. It can be obtained by formulating a 'management strategy' to enable one to go in for an 'action plan'. Mr. Kumar suggests seven steps along with the seven canons of self-empowerment. Management *Mantras* and the Check Lists appended at the end of each chapter make this book worth reading.

Lieutenant Colonel A K Sharma (Retd)

Liberalism and War : The Victors and the Vanquished. Andrew Williams, (London : Routledge, 2006), 263p, Price not indicated, ISBN 0-415-35980-5.

The book provides a detailed study on liberal thinking over the last century about how wars should be ended. The author has examined the main strategies used at the end and in the aftermath of wars by liberal states to consolidate their gains and to prevent the reoccurrence of wars with those states they have fought. Incidentally, the US Army has been used on more than thirty different occasions in the post-cold war period compared with just ten during the cold war period. This establishes the fact that military power is now the main vehicle for regime change with Iraq being the most recent case.

The author has also explored how various strategies-revenge, restitution, reparation, restraint, retribution, reconciliation and reconstruction have been used by liberal states not only to defeat their enemies but also transform them. The post-Second World War transformation of Japan and Germany into liberal democracies is a clear indication of such a strategy. However, the recent pre-emptive strikes against Iraq in 2003 by the US led coalition forces has questioned the liberal intentions of the US. Hegemonistic motives and illiberal actions of the US have taken centre-stage.

The book is clearly about the linkages between the aftermath of war and making of peace. The first two chapters are dedicated to analyse

some of the key liberal thinkers and the thinking about how wars should be or how these should be ended. These two chapters primarily focus on the nineteenth and twentieth century as backdrop to establish the framework to examine policy options for ending wars. Chapter three examines how the liberal states should not deal with the defeated adversary through the imposition of a 'reparation' regime, which was clearly illustrated by the failure of the "Treaty of Versailles" after the First World War. Chapters Four and Five discusses reconstruction. 'Reconstruction' is still the preferred option for dealing with the aftermath of major conflicts as witnessed in Iraq. Chapter Six examines the legalistic solutions in the aftermath of wars, especially those on retribution, primarily through 'War Crime Tribunals' and 'reconciliation'.

Chapter Seven describes some links with the most current approach of 'conflict resolution', which alone can bring about the lasting solution to the problems created by war, evidenced by what is now unfolding in Northern Ireland.

The book reflects the Anglo-American point of view rather than a global perception. Some of the Critical theorists and Marxists thinkers would call it 'Capitalist' aspirations of the transnational capitalist class, rather than liberal states in the true sense. Notwithstanding the debate on the merits of the beliefs and practice of the so called liberal leaders, the media, the civil society, and international politics are shaped by the dominant liberal states of the day. In 1900 it was UK and now it is the US.

This book will be of great interest to students and researchers of Security Studies, international relations and liberalism.

Lieutenant General Chandra Shekhar, PVSM, AVSM (Retd)

The Political Economy of a Common Currency: The CFA Franc Zone Since 1945. By David Stasavage (Aldershot : Ashgate, 2003), 195p, price not indicated, ISBN 0-7546-3469-8

This book has been published under the International Political Economy of new regionalism series whose objective is to create informed interdisciplinary and international research. This series is developed by an international international editorial team of scholars.

The book dwells upon theory and history of the Franc Zone since 1945 and traces its evolution. It indicates traditional explanation and transnational politics. It explores alternative political economy. The issue of susceptibility has been addressed including decolonisation, entry of France into the European Community and the growing marginalisation of Africa in world affairs.

The book provides essential introduction to the political economy of French African monetary relations over the period under study. This includes management of its currency, national interest, lobbying by societal groups and how this lobby has provided the main political support for the Franc Zone. The argument has been in the end, applied to the question of the macro economic management and in particular to debates over exchange rate policy.

The book is a very welcome edition to the literature available on the subject.

Dr Raj Kumar

Making Foreign Policy Presidential Management of the Decision-Making Process. *David Mitchell, (Aldershot : Ashgate, 2005), 271p, Price not indicated, ISBN 0-7546-4463-4.*

The book is a part of the academic debate in the United States on the process of decision-making in the realm of foreign policy. It assumes correctly that the President plays a "critical role" in formulation and execution of policy. The author examines the foreign policy process during the Vietnam War under President Nixon, policy of arms control by President Carter and President Reagan, the Balkan policy under President Clinton and Iraq policy by President George W Bush. He suggests that functioning of the advisory system in the shape of National Security Council (NSC) and the degree of interest shown by the President determine the outcome. Whereas President Reagan showed little interest or preference in a particular arms control regime and therefore no decisions were reached in the Council due to bureaucratic wrangling, President Nixon had definite views on dealing with Vietnam and used the NSC as he thought fit and took all decisions by himself.

The author suggests that choice of advisory system, role of advisors and their ideological proximity to the President and degree of centralisation exercised by him are crucial factors in formulation of policy.

It would be instructive to study the decision-making in the case of hostage crisis in Iran faced by President Carter and the Iran-Contra affair during the Reagan Presidency, where Presidential pre-occupation or preference determined the decisions, howsoever risky they proved to be. The advisory bodies were unable to change the President's preference. In addition, the advisory bodies do not limit President's ability to consult others outside the formal structures. Thus, formal structures are as useful as the President wishes it to be.

It is an interesting study and should encourage similar effort by Indian scholars.

Shri S K Bhutani, IFS (Retd)