Book Reviews

Space Weapons and International Security By Bhupendra Jassani. *Sweden, SIPRI 1987, p. 336, £ 35.00. ISBN 019-8291027.*

This is another of SIPRI's valuable contribution to military science and is of great interest to all serious students of Space Weapons, both civil and military. It also provides useful information to scholars researching the subject. The topic is of greater interest after the Gulf War, even though the Book does not deal with weapons or strategies used in that conflict. The esoteric weapon systems considered here may well acquire comparable relevance a decade or so later.

The Book is divided into five parts. Part 1 deals with Space Weapons and International Security, which is written by Bhupendra Jassani. This provides the basic background material and some useful information of space related weapon systems, exposes their infirmities and ineffectiveness and calls for UN action to restrict them.

Part 2 deals with technical aspects of Space Weapons. Papers include, technical issues for defence research, enforcing ballistic missile defence, star wars, counteracting measures and battle management of an anti-missile system. The last three articles bring out clearly why there was such genuine, widespread and comprehensive objection to the Star Wars variety of anti-missile weapons. A 'perfect' anti-ballistic missile would not cater for defence against other means of delivery, insoluble technical difficulties persist in the SDI and the USA would not be able to sustain the programme after the Reagan Administration. The last has already come about with huge cut-backs in US programme on SDI in the last two years.

Part 3 deals with 'Space Weapons and Deterrence'. Changeover from the strategy of Mutual Assured Destruction (MAD) to a concept of assured survival in a strategic concept has innumerable imponderables and uncertainties. Seven papers examine various dimensions of this issue. Their conclusions generally discount the practical feasibility of an assured survival, should a nuclear ballistic missile exchange were to materialise.

Part 4 considers the international dimension of space weapons. Five papers examine the implications for the NATO, major European countries, the third world and for international security. Finally, Part 5 examines the politics of space weapons and analyses the relevance and attitudes of the Soviet Union, Europe and the Third World towards the SDI.

The cataclysmic changes in the Soviet Union and the resultant revolutionary alterations in the strategic environment in the last two years have considerably undermined the basis of this study. Yet, the scholarly treatise and the excellent exposition of various facets of Space Weapons will be of great interest to the serious student of military science.

– Maj Gen D Banerjee, AVSM

Strategic Arms Reduction. By M M May and others. *Washington DC, Brookings Institute, 1988, p. 73. ISBN 0-8157-5525-2.*

The papers on 'Strategic Arms Reduction' have been published by The Brookings Institution USA, an institution for promoting research, education & publication of works in numerous fields.

The Book has been published at a time when the need of the hour desires a sincere effort towards reduction of arms which have been constantly on the increase since the inception of cold war. An attempt in this direction is being made by both the super powers for a long time, pending the assessment of levels to which these need to be reduced.

The authors have analytically examined the possible arms reductions keeping in mind the national perspectives of both the nations based on various discussions held on the subject. The authors have rich background of experience and have incorporated logical conclusions by systematic analysis of strategic weapons, capabilities & usuage by both the sides.

The necessity of reduction in Strategic Arms has been well appreciated to match the requirement of minimum deterrence.

– Col A K Sethi

Anti - Submarine Warfare. By Rear Admiral J R Hill. *Maryland, Naval Institute 1989, p. 128, $ 24.95. ISBN 0-87021-998-7.*

Rear Admiral J.R. Hill needs no introduction. He has to his credit a number of books of naval interest. Anti-submarine Warfare is yet another very educative book by him which provides professional and detailed material on anti-submarine warfare.

The book describes in depth the development of anti-submarine weapons, the means to counter the same, the platforms and weapon systems, an idea how NATO may fight the submarine battles in case of major Soviet attack and lastly what developments have taken place in the submarine warfare. In view of close society, it is very difficult for any writer to give a true account of the Soviet's anti-submarine strategy and the development of submarine arm. But Admiral Hill is to be complimented for giving indepth details of the Soviet submarines and the weapons fitted on them and an analysis of the threat their submarines pose.

This book is of much value as each chapter has been written after thorough research. It should be read by all officers inspiring to command ships. A must for all libraries ashore and afloat.

– Capt. R P Khanna, AVSM, Indian Navy (Retd)

SDI : Technology Survivability and Software, *New Jersey, Princeton, Princeton University, 1988, p. 281, $ 45.00. ISBN 0-691-07747-9.*

The publication is an unclassified version of a report by the Director - Office of Technology Assessment for the Congress, on the goals, technical and cost feasibility, and the requisite software back-up for Strategic Defence Initiative - (S D I), commonly known as Star Wars, which so dominated the American mind during the last decade under Reagan's stewardship. It is a follow-up on an earlier Report of 1985 and assesses subsequent developments in technology "to present realistically the available evidence about SDI feasibility and to suggest future thrust in Ballistic Missile Defence "(BMD)", development.

Technological inputs, software and sensor network, their dependability and survivability against possible Russian response and crucial System Integration and Battle Management aspects have been dealt with comprehensively, and, the consequent analysis of the current first phase, and future Second and Third phases of BMD Programme, provide the inquisitive reader a deep insight into the concept of Star Wars. However, the dependability or the infallibility of BMD seems to be uncertain.

In the changing international political scenario, SDI may already have lost its relevance. This book nevertheless, will retain its special reference value for defence planner of the missile and computer battle-fields.

-- Maj Gen S K Talwar

Trappings of Power : Ballistic Missiles in the Third World By Janne E. Nolan, *Washington DC. Brookings Institution, 1991 pp. 209 $ 29.95. ISBN 0-8159-60965.*

Ballistic Missiles are no longer the great powers' prerogatives, the so-called not-so-advanced countries too have made their mark in this field. However, the development of ballistic missiles in quite a number of third world nations is by no means a novel feature. The programmes involving acquiring, modifying and developing such missiles in these states, on a limited scale though, have been pursued before. Only now, they attract greater international attention as these missiles are being actually used in military combats and the reports of successful flight-tests of domestically produced ballistic missiles, deemed to have consequences beyond the region and thus a potential threat to world peace, are coming in from the developing countries.

Janne E Nolan, a senior fellow in the Foreign Policy Studies programme at Brookings, in her "Trappings of Power", takes up the issue and provides us with a comprehensive survey of the ballistic missiles programmes in the third world nations. In the process, Nolan seeks to assess the role of world technology market and that of technology, diffusion, examines the military significance of ballistic missiles in potential third world military conflicts, analyses the American interests and relevant policies and finally, makes suggestions regarding an effective international technology security regime, calling for institutional reforms, because to her, these missiles symbolise certain kinds of alterations in global security arrangements that the Industrial nations have to confront.

Nolan thinks that it should be given due recognition that the competing regional powers have their own particular ambitions and many of them have the capability to fulfil these ambitions with or without the sanctions of the great powers. Coercion alone is not going to desist then from following the coveted path. Missile Technology Control Regime though somewhat limited, still acts as a check on technology diffusion, but greater coordination of international arms export guidelines is necessary. Moreover, diplomatic efforts and technical controls should go hand in hand if redistribution of world military power is to be restrained.

The reader may or may not agree with all the opinions made but Nolan's book certainly appears to be a well researched one. Nolan has a lucid style of writing and the ability to make her points forcefully. It is thought provoking, informative and given the nature of such a book does a fine job within the limitations it imposes upon itself.

-- Sanjay Singh
Jawaharlal Nehru University

The Eagle and the Lion : The Tragedy of American - Iranian Relations By - James A. Bill. *London, Yale University Press, 1988, p. 520, $ 16.95. ISBN 0-300-04097-0.*

The United States stayed aloof from the Great Power rivalry over strategic Persia till 1940's, while generations of latter's leaders zig-zagged their way for almost 150 years through the political thickets inhabited by predators like Great Britain and Russia. These leaders tried to seek a third force to exercise a neutralizing influence, which role Germany and France fulfilled to some extent, till, for national and personal reasons, the Iranian leaders tried to make use of the US "as a political balance and as an economic Santa Claus". Americans performed this role quite well till the CIA engineered over-throw of Premier Mosaddiq in 1953. After that, it is a strange story of the way in which the US anchored its national interests to this small, non-Western absolute monarchy, on a scale unprecedented in American diplomatic history. The period between 1972 and 1977 saw these two disparate countries increasingly fused together, starting at the top of their power structure.

The book under review traces the history of this symbiotic and complex relationship between America and Iran, from 1940's till the bizarre Iran - Contra affair and the recently concluded Gulf War; it tells the inside story of once close friends, becoming international foes.

Prof James Bills 'opus' is a typical product of modern, high class American scholarship-painstaking, comprehensive, perceptive, impartially analytic and factual, albeit somewhat short on human interest. But then, such works are not meant for bedside reading.

-- Maj Gen Rajendra Prakash, VSM (Retd)

The Warriors : United States Marines. By K.C. Lippard, *New Delhi, Lancer International, 1990, p. 239, Rs 200/-. ISBN 81-7062-1003.*

The Book presumably, a maiden venture, is based on the author's experiences in the US Marine Corps; Those span a period of four years from enlistment through the Vietnam war to his release.

The Book comprises a series of episodes concerning the author and his comrades in the Marine Corps - "A volunteer outfit made up of hardcase men who know that when combat comes, they will be the first to draw and spill blood. They will never give ground and can be expected to die with honour if the need be".

The USMC won fifty-six Congressional Medals of Honour in the Vietnam campaign, the highest award for military valour. The comparison to the Spartans and the eologies appear apt.

– Maj Gen Nirmal Sondhi, AVSM & BAR

American - Russian Economic Relations 1770's - 1990's, A Study of Issues and Literature. By James K. *Libbey, Claremont, Regina Books, 1989, p. 202, $ 12.95. ISBN 0-941690-35-0.*

This book by James K. Libbey (adjunct Professor at Flagler College, St. Augustine, Florida) gives the reader a chronological survey of Economic relations between America and Russia since the 18th century. In his introduction, the author traces the economic problems and prospects existing between these two countries and amazed to note that these giants trade only on minimal processed materials.

The Cold War barrier to economic relation was however tremendous. The emergence of "Marshall Plan" and the formation of COMECON and US trade controls dominated this period till the detente. The policies and attitudes of American Presidents and change in leadership in the Soviet Union and many more factors dominated the period from 1970 to 1980. However, the Reagan administration policies and the issues of 80s like the grain contradiction, technology transfer and economic diplomacy, are well understood while reading chapter VI. But the author does not give a futuristic attitude as the cold war has winded away.

The credit goes to Libbey's collection of bibliography which is a chapter in itself. This is of immense help to research scholars of various disciplines.

– Ms. G. Satyawati
Jawaharlal Nehru University

Alpha Strike Vietnam : The Navy's Air War 1964 - 1973. By Jeffery Levinson, *Novato, Presido Press, 1989, p. 312, $ 18.95. ISBN 0-98141-338-3.*

The book is written in an easily readable simple style. Being a personal account, makes it authentic. It is well illustrated with photographs, however, there is

only one general map. Detailed maps of different battle zones would have helped to follow the air battles better.

Alfa Strike Vietnam is not a definitive history of Naval Air War in South East Asia; but it is a segment of American history, which should never be forgotten for fear that the US will make the same mistakes again.

The author gives us a very vivid account of the sub-human treatment meted out to the American POW's chained and paraded through villages, where rocks and other missiles were hurled at them and some were even beheaded. As the war progressed, from a land oriented military, North Vietnam, with the help of China and Russia could boast of having the world's strongest and most sophisticated Air Defence network, with an estimated two hundred missile sites and thirty missile battallions with their own computers and generators. A well narrated personal account and a useful study for all aviators, specially for joint Air Operations by our three services. The book will also be useful for our defence planners, bringing out an important lesson on the negative effect in the conduct and the result of a war directed from a distant command centre.

– Brig Y P Dev (Retd)

Brown Water, Black Berets : Coastal and Riverine Warfare in Vietnam By Thomas J. Culter, *Maryland, Naval Institute Press, p. 426, $ 21.95. ISBN 0-87021-011-4.*

As General Officer Commanding, 57 Mountain Division, forming part of Indian Peace Keeping Force in Sri Lanka, I faced similar problems.

Brown water, Black Berets by Thomas J Cutler has unfolded the naval part of Vietnam War in a lucid manner. In this type of war, the situation is always nebulous and intelligence scanty. Scenarios unfold themselves continuously and plans get corrected, forces regrouped, equipment refurbished, organisation redone and strategy and tactics remodelled. State of flux is continuous.

The advisory role became full fledged participation. Series of operations beginning with Operation Market Time followed by Operation Game Warden and then the Mobile Riverine Force followed by Task Force clearwater were all meaningful operations which attributed to the war efforts by the USA.

The new strategy SEALORDS ie a switch from "Search and Destroy" to "bait and destroy" paid heavy dividends where the kill ratio became 1 : 60. Finally, they were back to the advisors role again.

Though such a war gives immense freedom of action to individuals but lurking unconventional dangers, cause undue frustrations. We need characters like Dale Meyerkord, Macleod, Dicky Chapelle, Godbehere, Padre Johnson, Chuck Horowitz to keep going. On the whole the exactitude with which this book has been written, it is worth reading.

– Maj General T P Singh

Foreign Relations of the United States, 1955-1957, V. XXII, Southeast Asia. John P. Glennon (Ed. in Chief) *Washington, United States Government Printing Office, 1989, p. 973, ISBN 044-000-02251-6.*

Foreign Relations of the United States, 1955-1957, V.XVI, Suez Crisis, July 26-December 31, 1956. John P. Glennon (Ed. in Chief). United States Government Printing Office, Washington, 1990. p. 1387 Price : $51.25.

Both the volumes are parts of a series of publications on the foreign policy of the United States. These are a kind of documentary record of major foreign policy decisions of the United States, facts responsible for formulation of such decisions, the political environment as perceived by the actors involved and diplomatic manoeuvres on a particular geographical area or of a major international issue covering a specific time period. These official accounts are edited and published by the office of the Historian, Bureau of Public Affairs, Department of State to provide a comprehensive and authoritative record of the United States as an actor in the global arena.

Embassy-telegrams, despatch-messages to the Department of State and reply thereof and instructions sent to respective embassies, letters and memoranda of conversations and conferences, national intelligence estimates, staff study reports, action plans and resolutions constitute the main bulk. Out of these small pieces a complete whole gradually takes shape in reader's mind. Editorial notes fill the gaps, that the documents fail to bridge.

Vol. XXII, on Southeast Asia, concentrates on the political and economic relations of the United States during 1955-1957 with countries situated in this part of the world. Within this period certain issues - for instance, United States interest in the question of Western New Guinea in relations with Indonesia, negotiating a revised military base agreement with the Philippines, or preventing communist subversion in Singapore and Malaya - were pe-eminent among others, and have been highlighted accordingly in the book.

Vol. XVI, on the other hand, deals with a specific issue. It begins with the initial U.S. reaction to Egyptian nationalisation of the Suez Canal Company and ends with the efforts to deal with the resultant situation of the Suez Crisis by the end of December 1956, and it covers the London Tripartite Conversations, Conferences on Suez, Menzies Mission, Users Association Proposal, Security Council Debate, the invasions and the cease-fire, world reactions to American diplomacy and other relevant records, which include, inter alia, references to the Government of India's views, position and role in regard to the crisis. However, on the whole, the focus is on the U.S. decision-making process in the context of crisis diplomacy supported by intelligence operations.

Both these competently organized, well- documented day-by-day (and in some cases on a minute-by-minute basis) accounts of American foreign relations are immensely helpful to any researcher interested and/or engaged in this field of study. Also, these accounts provide an insight into the decision-style and inter-personal style of the

major political actors involved, who willy-nilly moved history to a particular direction during those years.

– Anindyo J. Majumdar
Jawaharlal Nehru University

The Soviet - Union and Northern Waters. ed by Clive Archer. *London, Routledge, 1988, p. 261, $ 36.00.*

Northern Waters are defined as the maritime areas within the latitudes of 80°N and 60°N and from longitude 90°W to 40°E. This Sector includes the islands of Arctic Canada, Greenland, Iceland, the Faroes, Shetlands, Jan Nayen and Svalbard and extends to the Kola Peninsula in the northwest of the Soviet Union. These waters, lying in the northernmost band of the Atlantic Ocean, are important because of their natural resources and vital strategic value.

This book analyses the role of the Soviet Union in Northern Waters. The responses of NATO, USA and the Nordic countries to the Soviet military presence are also examined. The book includes eleven chapters by different experts covering the legal aspects, resource questions, the strategic implications of the Soviet presence and the responses of the Western states. Soviet maritime interests in the Northern Waters are exhaustively covered.

– Major P. K. Gupta

'War in Afghanistan' by Mark Uban, *London, Macmillan, 1980, p. 244, Price £8 9.95. ISBN 0-383-43263-0.*

It would be a folly to think that, with the War in Afghanistan reaching its logical conclusion after the prolonged ding-dong battles between the protagonists, the various Mujahideen factions on one side and the Soviet Russian propped Government forces on the other; the rendering of the Former Soviet Union, non-entity even the cartographical landscape, this book has become somewhat of an anachronism. This is far from it. The writer has done so excellent a job, that, despite the vastly changed scenario, soldiers, statesmen and lastly, but not the least, the intrepid scholar will find much in it by way of techniques of conduct of successful attrisive and high profile insurgency operations and their counters, so ably excuted by the Soviet forces, and later by the Afghan Government troops, till they, as predicted much earlier in most quarters, buckled under the Mujahideen onslaught leading to establishment of the Masud backed strongmen as legal heirs to the Afghan monarchists.

– Lt Col AK Sharma

Red Banner : The Soviet Military System in Peace and War. By Christopher Donnelly. *Surrey, Jane's Information Group, 1988, p. 288, £ 35.00. ISBN 07106-04882.*

The author with his wide and deep knowledge obtained through an excellently researched material from open sources, has produced an authentic book. It should immensely benefit students of military history; soldiers and civilians alike.

A note-worthy feature of the book is the manner in which Mr Donnelly has squeezed in an easily readable form, almost all the aspects of the Soviet military, which is not only integrated into every facet of the Russian Society but that it occupies a pre-eminent place in it.

The system of officer recruitment which is being increasingly drawn from the "upper layer" of society and which has more or less, become "hereditary" and the gradual but perceptible increase in the percentage of minorities in the armed forces of the Soviet military are some other fascinating features.

-- Brig Rai Singh MVC AVSM (Retd)

Politics in China. From MAO to Deng. By Ian Derbrshire. *London, W & R Chambers 1987, p. 134. ISBN 0-550-20743.*

Before pro-democracy movement was crushed on 14 June 89, China has been a closed society since the communist take over in 1949 and the outside world got to know very little of what went on behind the iron curtain. This pithy volume provides a peep across the Great Wall, a ring side view of the politics in China from Mao to Deng.

Brevity is the ballmark of the little book by Ian Derbyshire. He has tried to pack maximum information in as little space as possible without leaving out on any of the essentials. The lay reader may find the text a bit heavy. For though the political drama at the very top has been effectively portrayed, the common man has been completely left out, life of an average family under the communists, their hopes and frustrations, if described, could have made the book infinitely more interesting. Perhaps that was beyond the scope of the subject.

However, the book is an excellent introduction to contemporary China. A glossary at the end explains foreign words and phrases, abbreviations and technical terms. The bibliography guides the readers to further relevant recently published work. It is ideally suited to the needs of students of politics, journalists and political commentators.

-- Maj Sulakshan Mohan (Retd)

Asean and China : An Evolving Relationship Edited by Joyce K Kallgren and others. *Berkeley, Institute of East Asian Studies, 1988, p. 368, $ 20.00. ISBN 1-55729-004-0.*

This book is a collection of eighteen research papers by twenty contributors under the aegis of the Institute of East Asian Studies, University of California, Berkeley, USA. The scholarly papers deal with China and its relations with the member states of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in all its connotations. The member states are, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

These dissertations cover a wide spectrum from social, economic, political military

policies, regional peculiar problems, bilateral realtions and status of ethnic Chinese outside China to Security both regional and global concerning China vis-a-vis ASEAN. The research papers carry out a historical analysis upto 1988, and in some cases forecast the likely course of events. The effect of aftermath of happening in Tiananmen Square in Beijing in 1989 could not be included for obvious reasons.

Glasnost and Perestroika in erstwhile USSR effecting communist totalitarian States and breaking them up into a western style of democratic open society and government, could not be visualized in case of China or any other communist state. Therefore to that extent, the value of these papers is reduced only to a historical perspective and how these ASEAN member states would shape their relations with a new China sans communism (if that ever happens) is still a million dollar question. The crystal ball gazing towards this direction was not possible at the time of research of these papers.

The papers are well researched and give an insight into the functioning of socio-economic, political, and military aspects of member states of ASEAN versus China.

-- Maj Gen JN Goel (Retd)

The Japanese offensive. By Col. Prithvi Nath, *New Delhi, Sterling, 1990 p. 92, Rs. 125.00. ISBN 81-207-1234X.*

The trouble with potted military histories - this book is one of them - is that they do not tell us the full story of the military campaigns which they seek to cover. This is particularly so, as in this case, when an attempt is made to encompass the Japanese invasion of Hongkong, Malaya, Burma, Java, Sumatra, Borneo and the Phillipines in 1941-42, in a book of 85 pages. The result is a very sketchy outline of what happened during those fateful days, when British, Australian, Canadian, Dutch and American forces, defending these countries, suffered humiliating defeat at the hands of an Asian power.

The campaigns in Malaya and Burma notably the former, receive maximum coverage, in that the course of events follow a pattern of sequence. The major military actions are described in some detail; there are general comments on command failures, and deficiencies in equipment and training. There is an interesting preliminary chapter on Japanese grand strategy, and an outline of their plans for the conquest of the whole region. There is no doubt of the thoroughness of their preparations; aided, as they were by the preoccupation of the British in the war against Germany, which had first call on naval and air forces troops and equipment. It is a sobering thought that Hong Kong had for its defence from the sea, a total of two destroyers and a few motor torpedo boats, and from the air, three torpedo bombers and three amphibian aircraft. The resistance offered by the land forces, comprising British, Indian and Canadian troops, in such hopeless circumstances, is truly heroic.

For some curious reason, the campaign in the Philippines is wholly ommitted;

likewise, the inclusion of the Arakan Campaign of 1943, even though limited to a single page, appears incongrous.

The sketches used to describe various actions are so small as to require a magnifying glass for study, and the symbols used to distinguished opposing forces, difficult to follow.

The bibliography listed at the end of the book should whet the appetite of the serious student of what was, for the Allies, a campaign of unmitigated disaster.

-- Lt Gen ML Thapan PVSM (Retd)

The Foundations of Japanese Power : Continuities, Changes, Challenges : By William R Nester, *London Macmillian, 1990, p. 418, £ 19.99. ISBN 0-333-49377-X.*

The International System is steadily evolving into a postmilitary one in which industrial and financial strengths will be the most crucial determinants of national security. Japan with very strong credentials of being the new technological and economic global gian is best positioned for the twenty first century. While the recent burgeoning of literature in the US on Japan implicitly acknowledges this new reality, it also seeks to achieve a two fold purpose. Firstly, it attempts to understand the Japanese economic miracle and draw lessons from it. Secondly, it seeks to examine the future of US Japan relations. This is important because of the enormous stakes involved in this bilateral relationship which has been plagued by a series of economic frictions recently. William R. Nester's Book - 'The Foundations of Japanese Power - Continuities, Changes Challenges' reflects these concerns, written as it is with an obvious American perspective.

Nester's look as its title suggests, is a scholorly analysis of the factors responsible for Japan's Power. In an exercise in 'Hermenutics' he adopts a multifaceted approach (whereby the gives due importance to cultural, social, political and economic factors) with a historical perspective. The author very rightly points out that the Japanese economic 'miracle' is not a result of divine intervention, or its capitalist economy an eloquent example of the success of 'the invisable hand' of the market. He shows how postwar reconstruction of Japan is a result of a concerted effort by the Japanese people in various different fields. Of prime importance here is the role of the 'governing triad' of the conservative politicians, bureaucrats and corporate elite. This underlying consensus is chiefly responsible for Japanese policies being a studied response to crises.

No understanding of the Japanese power is complete without a reference to the political economic culture. Nester devotes an entire chapter on how the values of groupism, heirarchy and conformity are internalized by the Japanese people through various institutions. These values create a social ethos in favour of hard work, loyalty to the company and the need to reconcile management worker differences. This reflects a selective insularity of the Japanese culture. It is interesting to note that while Japan adopted Western economic policies and technologies, it retained, in fact,

nourished certain relevant traditional values. This explains the political mallebility of the Japanese, as is evident from the enthusiastic support which both democracy and dictatorship have received at different times.

Nester views the future economic internationalization of Japan as just another form of Japanese Nationalism. However, in an attempt to end his book on an optimistic note, Nestor's prescience dwells on a tentative possibility, in which Japan may assume responsibility in tackling issues such as development, environment & aid in an increasingly interdependent world. This comprehensive piece of work is recommended for both the academic and the layman who wishes to build up on his nodding acquaintance with the enigma i.e. Japan.

– Rina Kashyap
Jawaharlal Nehru University

State in Burma. By Robert H. Tarlor, *Hawaii, Univ. Of Hawaii Press, 1987, p. 395, £ 32.00. ISBN 0-8248-1141-0.*

The principle issue of the book centres on the relationship between the State and Society within the country.

In 1948 Burma came under one legal authority except Shan State and others remained outside the Central system until 1962. The Civil war of 1948 - 1952 provided the Army with experience and shed politicized officers. These were the lessons learnt; keep party factionalism out of the Army, and maintain corporate loyalty. The inclusion of Gen Ne Win in April 1949 Cabinet and made Deputy Prime Minister, Home and Defence. As the civil war raged, Prime Minister Nu exercised ino influence outside Rangoon. The enterprises run by foreigners were taken over and Defence Forces Institute set up initially to provide consumer goods and later factories were set up and became by 1958 the largest enterprise.

Ne Wins's personal power comes from the office he holds and every one realises that route to power is by impressing the superman. Local agents of the party do affect day to day life and State dominates all institutions.

– Maj Gen B D Kale (Retd)

Toward A Glorious Indonsia : Reminiscences and Observations of Dr Soetomo Edited by Paul W. Van der Veure, *Ohio University Center for International Studies Center for southeast Asian Studies, 1987, p 283, $ 13.50. ISBN 089680-142-X.*

In the history of freedom struggle of colonial countries there are key personalities who enlighten the masses and provide them with direction for achieving independence. They are dedicated intellectuals who influence the public with their thoughts and plan of action towards this end. Some eschew violence and demonstrate non violent methods like Mahatma Gandhi in India while others feel freedom ought to be won by violence since the Colonial powers pay no heed to the non violent methods. Dr Soetomo was one such Indonesian leader who was dedicated to the freedon struggle of his country but favoured proper development, education of the masses,

eradication of poverty and creation of infrastructure to sustain proper development and functioning of the Government after achieving independence.

The Book is a translated account of observations and reminiscences of Dr Soetomo. The Editor gives a detailed biography of Dr Soetomo alongwith his thoughts and ideals as an introduction to the Book. The reading of subsequent parts of the book giving reminiscences of Dr Soetomo in his "Kenang Kenangan" (reminiscences) and 'Poespita Mantja Nagara' (Impressions from Foreign lands) becomes easier to comprehend.

The contemporary freedom struggle of Colonial countries is a valuable study to understand the current postures of these countries in the light of thoughts and ideals of great leaders. The postulates of Dr Soetomo that a country should deserve freedom by proper awakening and education and creating an infrastructure maintaining independence and that colonial powers are not always against the ruled and averse to development can be tested in post independence events of the liberated countries.

-- Brig Satjit Singh AVSM, VSM

Strategy and Defence : Australian Essays. Edited by Desmond Ball. *Sydney, Allen & Unwin, 1982, p. 402. ISBN 0-868613169.*

Strategy and Defence is a collection of articles written by eminent Australian writers, who are prominent in the fields of International Relations, Military Strategy and Defence Policy. These essays have been compiled and edited by DESMOND BALL, himself a renowned scholar and writer on these subjects. The book has been compiled for the benefit of Service Officers and Civilians with the subject of National Security in Australia.

The subject of Strategy and Defence is common to nations all over the world. However, the strategy to be adopted for the defence of any country will be governed by the geopolitical environment in which it is located and consequently on its National objectives and interests. Persons dealing with strategic and defence matters need to update their thinking at all times. This book and particularly so its essays on "Introduction to strategic thinking", "War in International Politics today", "Technological changes on Conventional Battlefield", Trends and Implication", Future Trends in Conventional Warfare", and "Aspects of Revolutionary Warfare with particular refrence to South East Asia" are stimulating and thought provoking as these are pertinently applicable to our environment also.

-- Maj Gen BK Mehta (Retd)

Between East and West : Israel's Foreign Policy Orientation 1948-56. By Uri Bialer. *Cambridge, Cambridge Univ. p. 292, £ 32.50. ISBN 0521-362490.*

Israel has continued to occupy the centre stage in Middle East politics right from the day it was formed in 1948. Its foreign policy particularly in its formative

years along with the position taken by Arab nations as also the reactions of the two super powers constitutes a basis for an interesting study.

Uri Bialer has researched deep into the subject and has quoted extensively from Israel archives and other papers made available to him, but his conclusions can at best be termed "Plausible", as he deliberately ignores the stand taken by the Palestinians and neighbouring Arab nations. No story of Middle East can be complete without taking into cognizance, the rights and aspirations of Palestinians. After all, before 1948, they shared this land with the Jews.

Bialer seems to suggest that Israel for the first 2 to 3 years of its existence deliberately followed a policy of "Non-Alignment" or more appropriately "Non-identification" based on ideological considerations like friendship with all freedom loving states, opposition to fascism and support for all who cherish the values of freedom and liberty and it is only when its security was threatened by the pro Arab stand adopted by USSR and the Gzech-Egyptian arms transaction of 1955, that made it lean towards USA and western countries. The smoke screen of ideological considerations stands lifted by the very facts unearthed by Bialer. Israel acted as it did in pure self interest, ideology had no part to play in this. It could not have displeased USSR and East from where "Aliyah" (immigratin of Jews to Israel) needed desperatey for its defence, was being covertly and overtly organised. On the other hand, the Aliyah, the resettlement of Jews, the clandestine acquisition of arms, in fact the very sustenance of Israel was being financed by American Jewry and through aid by US Govt. You cannot bite the hand that feeds you. The open pro west alignment was revealed, no sooner than USSR halted Aliyah as it feared that 2.5 million Russian and Eastern bloc Jews might develop extra territorial loyality. Besides, despite the planting of many left leaning Jews in the Aliyah the communists had failed to gain any worthwhile support in Israel.

The myth of allegiance to values of freedom and liberty stands exploded. The denial of basic human rights to Israeli Arabs is not far from a benign version of fascism.

Notwithstanding, the one sided treatment of the subject, the book has useful information.

-- Air Marshal HK Oberai PVSM, AVSM, VM, (Retd)

Creating Facts : Israel, Palestinians and the West Bank. By Geoffrey Aronson. *Washington, Institute for Palestine Studies, 1987, p. 334, $ 24.95. ISBN 0-88728-160-5.*

Following her spectacular victory in 1967, Israel occupied the areas of the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and the West Bank of the Jordan River. She had now to contend with the twin problems of a million Palestinians in the occupied areas and international pressure to vacate the newly acquired territory. These decades of experience had taught her that the key to national survival was the 'facts on the ground'. Diplomacy and international treaties were both a function of this paramount truth.

She, therefore, lost no time in estending her juristiction and administration into the occupied areas which, she claimed, were 'parts of the liberated land of Israel' freed from the 'foreign yoke'. Adopting Golda Meir's blunt claim that 'the frontier of Israel is where the Jews live no efforts were spared in establishing civilian and military centres in the occupied areas to form a 'Greater Israel'. The resolution of the Palestinian problem calls for some form of compromise between the Israeli stand of 'no withdrawal' and the Arab demand for the vacation of Israeli occupation and restoration of the pre 1948 borders. Sadat's 1977 initiative and the Camp David parleys of the following year had raised hopes of an amicable accord. Israel had accepted a change in the Sinai Sector and some form of 'autonomy' for the Palestinians. But these efforts failed; Jordan and the PLO refused to participate. The Palestinians viewed the Camp David accord and the offer of 'self rule' agreed upon by Carter, Sadat and Begin as nothing more than a scheme for continued occupation under a more permanent guise. The Palestinians were now ranged against three stronger powers and were consequently more exposed and vulnerable. In the meanwhile Israel continued to employ the full resources of a sovereign state to 'create facts on the ground'. The process would consolidate her new frontiers while narrowing the options available for the resolution of competing claims to occupied territory.

Aronson's Creating facts' is a lucid exposition of the complex exchanges of claims, accusations and justifications that have characterised this conflict. It shows in perspective a century old struggle for Palestine, the Israeli occupation being but its latest chapter. The book is the result of scholarly research, marshals considerable data and presents them in a highly comprehensible and logical form. A very readable book, it is recommended for study by researchers and anlysts of international relations.

-- Lt. Gen PE Menon PVSM

The Economics of Apartheid. By Stephen R Lewis Jr. *New York, Council of Foreign Relations, 1990, p. 195, $ 17.95. ISBN 0-87609-056-0*

There are hardly any major works done on South African economy and Mr. Lewis has done a great job which has dealt with all aspects of Apartheid economy.

One wonders if the Blacks in South Africa are denied basic rights including the economic one, how is it that the South African economy is in a realtively prosperous state? One could draw comparisons with colonial India where cheap labour and plenty of raw material supplies helped the British economy.

Economic sanctions deserve a closer look, for the sanction will not be effective if the export of the South African goods cover a small percentage of total export, the bulk of that constitutes gold and diamonds. On the supply side, the economic relations with the Frontline states and setting up bogus companies in third countries has offset the sanctions. The only real harm was through the oil sanctions which prompted them to look for other renewable sources of energy.

The only chance for change therefore is through political accomodation that

should run its own course. The Western nations have too much at stake and no on should really hope for a change on their behalf.

– Shahram Sepahi
Jawaharlal Nehru University

The Memoirs of Field Marshal Kesselring : With a New Introduction. By Kenneth Macksey. *New Delhi, Lancer, 1988, p. 319, Rs. 250.00. ISBN 81-7062-038-4.*

Field Marshal Kesselring was a remarkably versatile hero and commander thrown up by Germany in the Second World War. He was respected and feared by friend and foe alike. A soldier turned an airman who commanded airfleets and army groups with equal ease and competence.

Hitler attacked Russia inspite of their treaty of friendship because the Fuehrer thought that it was unlikely that a friendship between Russia and Germany could be lasting. On June 22, 1941 Operation Barbarossa was launched by three army groups in three directions. All the three thrusts were halted before Moscow.

Kesselring makes repeated references to the fact that the Italians from top to bottom had no heart in the war. In fact they were already holding secret parleys with the Allies to defect. The treachery of the Italians contributed to the throwing out of the Germans from North Africa.

The Italian, French and other Allied partisans caused heavy casualties to the German troops. For example, in June-August 1944,5,000 German soliders were killed and 25,000-30,000 wounded by the partisans.

Kesselring's conviction and death sentence for war crimes raised a serious controversy. However, his death sentence was subsequently commuted to life imprisonment. He was released in 1952 and died in 1960. In between, he wrote his Memoirs.

The poor quality of maps detracts from the value of these classic and excellent memoirs. The maps are simply unreadable.

– Brigadier Rai Singh, MVC, VSM

The Commonwealth Armies and the Korean War : An Alliance Study. By Jeffrey Grey. *Manchester, Manchester University, 1988, p. 244, £12.95. ISBN 0-7190-2611-3.*

The Korean War marked an important development in Commonwealth defence cooperation. The immediate post-World War II period had accelerated the loosening of such ties, but, militarily, as this book meticulously encapsulates, the Commonwealth retained some capacity to interact effectively on the battlefield, even when the political inclination was receding. Despite common organisational principles, there were considerable problems to be overcome at all levels to ensure the smooth functioning of integrated formations, and the Commonwealth organisation in Korea and Japan was as prone to friction as the United Nations Command, of which it was a part.

India's contribution, 60th (Parachute) Field Ambulance, commanded by Lt Col AG Rangaraj AMC, is objectively covered. As the author validly records, "The Indian Field Ambulance was one of the outstanding success of the Commonwealth involvement, earning an extraordinarily high reputation among all the other Commonwealth forces. Initially, however, their arrival was viewed as something of a mixed blessing. One needs to read this insightful book to see how the mixed blessing "was easily and successfully integrated". The reasons for the fruitful appointment of Lt Col (later Maj Gen) P. CHOUDHRY, 5 GR, as Liaison officer at the headquarters of the Commander-in-Chief, British Commonwealth Forces, Korea (BCFK) are in addition mentioned.

To conclude, this book is not only a masterly study of alliance relations, both between the Commonwealth forces involved, and between the Commonwealth forces and the American, but also sheds much light upon the earlier Commonwealth involvement in the occupation of Japan, which preceded the Korean War and of which BRIN DIV (12,000 troops) had been part.

-- Lt Gen SL Menezes PVSM (Retd)

Silk Roads : The Asian Adventures of Clara and Andre Malraux By Axel Madsen. *London, I.B. Tauris. 1990, p. 299. ISBN 1-85043-2090. ISBN 1-85043-209-0.*

This story narrates the adventures of Andre and Clara Maulraux in Indo-China in the reckless twenties'. Andre and Clara, an extraordinary couple by any standards had strong sympathy with the people of Indo-China against colonial rulers and they were fortunate enough to have the satisfaction to see Cambodia and Vietnam defeat the will of the Western powers.

Mr Axel's narration of the events is powerful, picturesque and it creates the right atmosphere of a past, exotic era. To his credit Mr Axel Madsen not only fully projects the problems and travails of Andre and Clara but also portrays successfully the struggle of the people of Indo-China through personal lives and experience of Andre and Clara. The book does not over-emphasise French or American political or military failures but focuses on their failure to capture the hearts and minds of the people.

An extremely interesting and touching story, lucid and well written. Recommend reading as its lessons are in many way relevant to us today. A quote from the book will be of interest as it sums up the central theme. "When Charles de Gaulle and Andre sat watching the snow fall outside the former President's House at the end of their lives, De Gaulle said politicians put together territories they dont know how to hang on to, defend interest they later on betray, and that fate works in unsuspecting way".

-- Maj Gen Afsir Karim AVSM (Retd)

Napolean and Hitler : A Comparative Biography. By Desmand Seward, *New York, Viking Penguia, 1988, p. 319 Price $ 19.95. ISBN 0-670-81480-6.*

This book is a study in megalomania - of two great historical characters Napolean and Hitler. Although there is an over-a-century gap between the two, yet they have many points in common. They both had origins different from their countries they ruled. Napolean was a Corsican, but ruled France; Hitler was an Austrian, but led Germany. Both were great conquerors. Napolean humbled nearly whole of Europe; so did Hitler. By 1797, Napolean had won 18 battles including Montenette, Dego, Millesimo, Mondovi, Lodi, Milan, Mantua. His great triumph was at Austerlitz (1805) where he with a force of 60,000, and after a march of 1500 miles, defeated an Austrian-Russian Force of 1,00,000 and killed 15,000 troops, captured 10,000 POWs, 180 guns and 40 colours. Hitler, not a field commander, subdued Poland, Belgium, Holland and France in a swift offensive. Both thus adopted the Blitz technique. Both realised that without mastery of sea, Britain could not be invaded. So they both chose Egypt to bring Britain on her knees. But British Naval might played a major role in defeating the designs of both. Hopes of French invasion of Britain vanished at Trafalgar where Nelson crippled the French Fleet.

For both, Russia provided the fatal attraction. Surprisingly both wanted to use Russia as a stepping stone for the invasion of India. Napolean discovered Rosetta Stone in Egypt to decipher the hieroglyphs and military strategists consider Napolean as Rosetta Stone of Military art of warfare.

This book provides clues to persons rising from obscurity to conquer vast areas and tyrannise humanity. To demolish such tyrants, world has to wage major wars. Napolean, Hitler era is not an end of megalomania; Saddam Hussain of Iraq brought history to full circle. Their common flaw was that they all understimated their adversaries. Without such paranoic psychopaths, art of war may go in hybernation.

– Lt Col Daljit Singh MSc, PSc (Retd)

Victory in Bangladesh By Maj Gen Lachhman Singh Lehl, PVSM, VrC, *Dehra Dun, Natraj Publishers, 1991. pp 310 Rs. 195/- (Revised ed.)*

In the 1971 Indo-Pak War India achieved a momentous decisive victory in Bangladesh that had far reaching consequences in South Asia. Inspite of this spectacular achievement, so far very few books have appeared chronicling this unique performance of the Indian Armed Forces. Apart from the initial instant quickies brought out by Gen DK Palit and DR Mankekar in 1972, Gen Lehl's book, which was first published in 1981, was amongst the first few books to cover in adequate detail the whole campaign in Bangladesh and the operations of our Forces in the different Sectors.

When we compare this work with the tome produced by Sir Winston Churchill telling 'The Story of the Malakand Field Force', which after all chronicled a colonial campaign of an infinitely smaller force operating against primitive tribesmen on our North-West Frontier, that we begin to realise how inadequate is even this coverage.

Though Gen Lehl has, in a concise and lucid form, produced an excellent account of the operations in Bangladesh, it eventually helps to highlight and emphasise the crying need for a much more detailed and a more definitive history of this brilliant campaign in order to do real justice to the important victory achieved by the Indian Armed Forces in 1971.

The present book, which is a revised edition of his earlier book, now includes a new chapter on the Pakistan Army and its ethics. This helps to give the reader a better appreciation of the Pakistani motives, actions and reactions. The author has also included much information that has since been made available to him not only by those who led our own forces but also from the "other side of the hill" from various Pakistani sources. Though Gen Lehl, as GOC 20 Infantry Division played an important part in these operations, it must be said to his credit, that his work does not suffer the weakness of any subjective assessment of the events and their results. He has throughout been objective in his narration of events and in his conclusions.

In his reflections at the end of his book, Gen Lehl makes some very pertinent points. He poses the question that having been given the tremendously weighted advantage of a decisive victory on the battlefield, did our politicians and diplomats make the best use of this advantage in their peace negotiations with Pakistan. Unfortunately for India all the gains of the battlefield appear to have been squandered away at the negotiation table, without achieving any worthwhile political aim. Mrs Gandhi's decision to detain 93,000 prisoners of War for over two years proved to be as expensive as it was counter-productive.

Another point raised by Gen Lehl questions the validity of the Army's present selection system for promotion to higher ranks. It does seem very strange that majority of those senior officers, who had proved themselves as successful commanders in war, should have been left out for further advancement. Gen Depinder Singh makes the same point in his recent book on the operations in Sri Lanka. The Army certainly does need to reconcile this odd situation.

-- Maj Gen SC Sinha PVSM (Retd)

Genesis of Terrorism : An Analytical Study of Punjab Terrorism. By Satyapal Dang. *New Delhi, Patriot Publishers, 1989, p. 155 Rs. 20. ISBN 81-7050-0877.*

For some years now terrorism in Punjab has been the most burning national problem, and every morning all newspaper carry news of terrorist killings on their first page. But interestingly, there is hardly any analytical study on this vital subject. Shri Satyapal Dang, a veteran leftist leader and old freedom fighter, has done yeoman's service by publishing this book, based on his earlier press articles and newspaper reports, already published.

A study of the background of some 50 Punjab terrorists, picked at random, has revealed that the majority of them is drawn from the rich peasant or landlords and urban middle classes, and nearly one-third of them are highly educated; about 65% of them fall in the 20-30 age group; and most of them do not have any political

background. "This means that a political youth coming from the upper strata of the society provides leadership to the terrorists in Punjab." The study also suggests that while agricultural workers, by and large, are not emotionally sympathetic to the secessionist ideology, the terrorists have links with smugglers and drug-peddlers. About 72% of the terrorists have Akali background, and 25% have extremist inclination.

This analytical and interesting book should be welcomed by all who are interested to know more about the Punjab crisis.

— Dr. B.C. Chakravorty

Lawrence of Lucknow : A Story of love. By John Lawrence. Edited by Audrey Woodiwiss, *Kent, Hodder & Stroughton, 1990, p. 275, £20.00. ISBN 0-340-23918-2.*

Lawrence of Lucknow is a fine biography, that tells of Henry Lawrence and his remarkable Irish family and also of India, in the crucial years leading to the Mutiny of 1857.

The author is the great grandson of Henry Lawrence and is eminently suited to write the biography. He has a number of books to his credit. His primary sources are the letters and documents left behind, (India Office Library) by Henry Lawrence and his spirited wife.

The biography covers his childhood, the beginning of his army service, as a Gunner at Dum Dum in 1823, his participation in First Burmese and First Afghan Wars and his important apointments as Resident of Nepal, Punjab, Rajputana and Oudh, where he was finally killed during the Mutiny at Lucknow. The biography contains amusing anecdotes. The acquisition of KOHINOOR by Queen Victoria (pages 201-202) or the peculiar methodology adopted by Napier, while siting the cantonment at Lahore (pages 204-5), are two such examples. Henry Lawrence's great work was in Punjab. He was sympathetic to Indian customs and had enlightened views on government and justice. He was also responsible for founding excellent schools, such as Lawrence School at Sanawar and Ooty.

The Biography is well researched, written in lucid and easy style. The printing is good and there are interestig photographs. The book is immensely readable.

— Maj Gen Ram Nath, SM

Kashmir : Behind the Vale. By M.J. Akber. *New Delhi, Penguin Books India, 1991, p. 232, Rs. 250.*

Of the several books that have flooded the market recently on Kashmir Mr Akbar's book is altruistic with a deeper analysis. It was expected to be so.

The crux of the Kashmir problem are basically two: the plebiscite issue; and the personalities of Nehru and Sheikh Abdullah. From the word go on 25 October 1947 when Kashmir was offered to be acceded to India, Nehru harped on the PLEBIS-

CETE issue. So did Lord Mountbatten. We are now told that Sardar Patel too connived. The issue was further confounded by Indira Gandhi accepting Kashmir a so called disputed territory in 1972 when Pakistan was a dimembered nation. Kashmir is a living example of a bungled issue-par excellence!

One point that Mr Akbar forgets is necessary to be mentioned here. Our leadership in 1947 and till almost early 1949 was virtually in the British hands. Mountbatten left only in mid 1948; and the armed forces in Delhi and Karachi were under the British officers. They did what they felt was right from their points of view!

-- Brig Chandra B. Khanduri

Pilots and Rebels : The Use of Aircraft in Unconventional Warfare 1918 - 1988 by Philip Anthony Towle, *London Brassey's, 1989. ISBN 0-08-036712-7 p. 253, £ 33.00.*

Air power became a dominant force in international politics after its achievements during World War II. The Battle of Britain, the Bomber Offensive against Germany and Japan, and the Battle of Atlantic will remain prominent landmarks in the evolution and growth of air power. The recent Persian Gulf conflict totally justified the expectations of air power theorists like Douhet, Mitchell and Trenchard.

However, a role of air power, not so well-known because of its low profile, is the use of aircraft in counter-insurgency guerrilla type Operations. Philip Towle, who is a Fellow of Queens' College, Cambridge, where he teaches Modern History and International Relations, has described the employment of air power in low intensity conflicts from 'Air Control' by the Royal Air Force in the period 1918-1939, and support for liberation and resistance movements during 1945-1954, to the more recent wars in Algeria, Vietnam and Afghanistan. The author covers the subject in depth with useful details about the operations supported by maps and photographs, references and a bibliography. He feels that the use of helicopters for reconnaissance and transport has become ever more important, even in urban guerrilla wars such as Northern Ireland.

– N B S