

BOOK REVIEWS

INDO-SOVIET TREATY : REACTIONS AND REFLECTIONS

by N.M. Ghatare

(Published by Deendayal Research Institute, New Delhi, 1972) pp. 300,
Price Rs. 30/-.

THE Indo-Soviet Treaty of peace, friendship and co-operation signed on the 9th August, 1971 was an important landmark in the history of Indian diplomacy. The timing of such a new foreign policy move, certainly adds colours to the matured statesmanship of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. When one makes a bird's eyview of the twelve articles in the treaty, the first reaction that comes to one's mind is that without sacrificing her non-aligned posture, India was in a position to negotiate and finally sign such a treaty on a footing of equality. Moreover it is also felt that strictly in terms of the security of India, it has heightened our morale. The timing of the treaty during Bangladesh struggle for nationhood also raised certain apprehensions in the minds of different nations. N.M. Ghatare as the editor of this book tries to seek answers to many such issues arising out of the treaty. It seems the editor in course of his discussion in the introductory chapter finds fault with practically every portion of the treaty. He is more than convinced that it is an unequal treaty and it only suits Soviet national interests rather than that of India. To him Soviet intervention in case of India's security being threatened by China or Pakistan is a wishful thinking (see Introduction, p. 6), But Soviet involvement during the Bangladesh crisis repudiates such a viewpoint. Again he strongly feels that by the treaty Soviet Union has scored a diplomatic coup by giving their undisputable voice in the South Asian affairs. But the editor could possibly see for himself the new course of events in the sub-continent since the treaty was signed. One doesn't see any Soviet interference either in our internal affairs or in our external moves.

The book provides the readers with many interesting observations by different political parties, and comments by leading political personalities and intellectuals. Especially one should not miss the views expressed by Piloo Modi, Romesh Thaper (p 75), M.S. Rajan (p. 72), K.P. Menon (p. 129), and K. Subramaniam (p. 147), and Subramaniam Swami (p. 159). The editorial comments expressed by Indian newspapers are also equally revealing. Some of them give unqualified support (e.g. Patriot, National Herald), whereas some others raise apprehensions (e.g. Statesman, Times of India). The reader can't afford to miss the comments expressed by foreign newspapers,

particularly the leading dailies from USA, U.K., Cario, and Pakistan. On the whole it is a useful compilation by the Deendayal Research Institute for the students of international affairs. Hopefully the Institute will compile many such useful documents on the diplomacy of India and her neighbours.

PKM

NEHRU'S EMISSARY TO KASHMIR (OCTOBER 1947)

by Hiralal Atal

(Published by Army Educational Stores, New Delhi, 1972) pp. 183, Price Rs. 20/-.

DURING the time of independence of India, a lot of confusion was created in public mind as regards the accession of Kashmir into the Indian Union. A number of books have been written by Indians and foreigners throwing lights on the fast course of events and the different role played by various personalities during this period. But most of them have analysed these events as outside observers. They have neither been the actors in the political drama, nor have they seen the operations from a closer angle. That is why their painstaking studies have been only based upon newspaper reports and personal interviews of some of the leaders who were actively involved in the drama. Hiralal Atal, as a Brigadier in Indian Army, was the Director of Personnel Services after partition. He was selected by Jawaharlal Nehru as his personal emissary to go to Kashmir and make an on the spot observation of the happenings in Kashmir. He was sent as a liaison officer to Kashmir Government without any operational control over the forces. His mission was very clearly indicated by the P.M. to him in his first meeting in the following words, "The situation in Kashmir was so vague and unknown that he (P.M.) wanted some one to go there to probe, investigate and report to him the true picture (p. 19)."

While performing his duty he made a careful study of not only the actual political and strategic position of Kashmir but also the role played by the main actors like Sheikh Abdullah and others. Although this study lacks historians insight, as the biographical account of a man who saw the real drama from a closer angle it is definitely worth recommending for students on Kashmir affairs. But the author should have improved his style of presenting various events with historical accuracy.

PKM

PREVENTING WORLD WAR III : SOME PROPOSALS

by Quincy Wright, William M. Evan and Morton Deutsch

(Simon and Schuster, New York, 1962), pp. 460, price \$ 6.95.

QUINCY Wright who heads the list of editors of this book was a leading scholar of international law and relations. For decades he influenced

the thinking minds not only in the United States but in many other parts of the world also with his writings which had a sense of mission. The book under review is an example of his concerns and anxieties.

Twenty-nine essays which form part of the subject matter of the book have been written on different topics but all of them represent an effort to increase our understanding of the agonizing problems of war and peace. Thus there is a thematic unity in the book. All authors—whether they belong to sciences or humanities—bring their diligence and intelligence to bear on ways of averting a nuclear catastrophe. Each author attempts to articulate proposals which would lessen the chances of war.

Divided into three parts, the book begins with the immediate and urgent problem of stopping the arms race. It attempts to deal comprehensively with problems involved in working out ways of dealing with the horrors of modern military weapons. Each essay in this part focuses on an important aspect of the total problem and volunteers solutions and suggestions. More important papers in this section are by Melman, Bohn, Karl Deutsch and Gerard.

The increase in international tensions is treated in the second part of the book. Contributors such as Osgood Fromm, Rapoport and Russell offer proposals aimed at the reduction of international tensions and the development of perspectives which could provide a basis for fruitful negotiations. The last part highlights the long range problem of building a world society. The book concludes with an epilogue in which each of the editors, take into account the views of the various authors and present a general essay from the point of view of his own field; psychology, sociology and international relations.

The basic assumptions of this valuable book are that war is not inevitable or beyond human control and the scientists can contribute to the making of peace as effectively as they have contributed to the making of war.

KPM

"AUSTRALIAN ARMY GUIDONS AND COLOURS

by Alfred N. Festberg

Published by Melborne Allora Publisher, 1972) pp. 142.

THE origin of carrying colours goes back to the early days when man fixed his family album to a pole and held it up in the battle for the double purpose of indicating his position and acting as a rallying point whenever an occasion arose.

Guidons and Standards have the same history where the Knights during nights used to patrol areas with the intention of safeguarding the interests, property and life of the people of their sovereign. Those Knights who distinguished themselves in the service of the sovereign were permitted to carry a Standard; others used to carry Guidon (a dove-tail flag). With the intro-

duction of regimentation, regiments of cavalry, battalions of infantry were allowed to carry Standards/Guidons/Colours which are taken into use only after a special ceremony with the approval of the sovereign.

Regimental Colours/Standards/Guidons are the symbol of spirit of the regiments. These, prior to being taken into use, are consecrated at a religious ceremony and on them are embazoned the sacred memory of heroic deeds and distinction of long and honourable service, the batle honours and the regimental badges. The Standards/Guidons/Regimental Colours, in fact, are a portable silken regimental history, regarded in veneration and a source of pride to the soldiers and ex-soldiers of a particular regiment/unit.

Sir Edwar Hamely has aptly described the Colours as follows:—

A moth-eaten rag on a worm-eaten pole,
It does not look likely to stir a man's soul,
'Tis the deeds that were done 'neath the moth-eaten rag,
When the pole was a staff, and the rag was a flag.

The Colours after service are laid up in a sacred place, thus maintaining that atmosphere of veneration with which they are surrounded.

Alfred N. Festberg in his book titled "Australian Army Guidons and Colours" has compiled the pictorial presentation, description, significance and origin of the Guidons and Colours of the Australian Army. The compilation does present their ready references with details of dates, places of presentation and places of laying off. The material of the book is based on a great deal of research of archival and departmental records, general and Military Orders, Army Orders, Military Boards and instructions. The information has been produced with great care and pain. The book is an important document for all those who are interested to know about the Colours/Standards/Guidons and flags and banners of the Australian Army.

The author has divided his work in 12 chapters. In the first 6 Chapters he detailed with the Regimental Colours, Kings Colours in depth and presents their detailed history. Regimental Colours are awarded only to the infantry of the lines. The other 6 Chapters deal with Guidons and flags which are awarded to the cavalry regiments and other institutions and establishments.

However, there appears to be a noticeable lapse with regard to the absence of Standards which are normally awarded to heavy regiments of the cavalry. There is a possibility that in the Australian Army there may not be any custom of awarding Standards to their cavalry. As such, mention of Standards has been omitted in this book.

I wish to congratulate the author for compiling such a useful book. This could not be done without sincere and hard work.

In my opinion this is an important and a very useful book for the students of Military History of the Australian Army. TBK

THE MASTERS OF POWER
by Brian Crozier,

(Published by Eyre & Spottiswoode, London, 1969) pp. 416, Price £ 3.

AUTHOR of Franco's biographical history, Brian Crozier has already earned the reputation for his scholarly and judicious writings. The book under review essentially deals with the dynamics of power and also with some of the leading figures of contemporary international relations who acquired power and attempted to preserve it to the extent possible. It does not attempt biographies of these wielders of power but discusses them in the context of specifically significant events in which they were involved or which they handled.

The book is divided into three parts. The first entitled Internal Power deals with personalities. Beginning is made with General de Gaulle and how he successfully attempted to resolve the Algerian problem which had presented to France one of the greatest dilemmas of its history. How the resolution of this question enormously added to De Gaulle's stature and prestige is recounted in detail. Then he takes up Franco who had earlier been a subject of his book-length study. The author mentions that Franco used to keep at his bed-side a copy of Machiavelli's *Prince* annotated by Napoleon. How the Spain's legendary ruler came to power and how he consolidated his power is described authoritatively and brilliantly. Next he takes up Mao Tse Tung's hundred flowers' policy and the role of the K.G.B. in the Soviet Union. Very interestingly he also discusses how the three British Prime Ministers—Eden, MacMillan and Wilson—endeavoured to solve the three crises which arose when they were in office. How Eden and MacMillan used their power to deal with the Suez crisis and how Wilson dealt with devaluation. He compares the powers of these Prime Ministers with the two Presidents of the United States, Kennedy and Johnson, when they handled Cuban Missile Crisis and Dominican Republic situation respectively.

The second part of the book takes up various types of conflict situations such as nuclear power, limited war, revolutionary war, military intervention and secret war. The confrontations of Khruschev, Eisenhower and Kennedy are discussed in this context. It is an extremely interesting part of the book.

In the last part entitled Towards a Philosophy of Power, the author criticises current international institutions which have not been able to solve the problems of the modern day world. He comes forward with suggestions which are well worth considering in the context of the actual uses of power.

On the whole, this is an excellent book and worthy of attention of all those who are interested in the problem of power which is of pivotal significance in contemporary society.

KPM

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Bowyer, J.F.	2 Group R.A.F.: A Complete History 1936-1945, 1974.
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Meir, Golda	My Life by Golda Meir, 1975.

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