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National Security: Defense Policy for a New International Order

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Snow, Donald M. *National Security: Defense Policy for a New International Order*. 3rd ed. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995. 336pp. (No price given)

Donald Snow's *National Security* is designed as a text for mid-career, officer staff-college students. It is also appropriate as a complementary source for lower division college analytical American government courses. In the latter case, current texts have shifted emphasis to domestic public policy and, in many cases, have omitted any detailed discussion of national strategy planning regarding foreign relations between the United States and the "Second Tier" countries (for which Snow's definition can be found in his first chapter). However, it is the staff-course officer who will benefit most from this book.

This edition is an excellent revision of the author's previous work. He has successfully and concisely updated the status of the international arena as of 1994. He draws one's attention to a realistic taxonomy of the range of divergence between First Tier countries (the United States and the other G-7 nations) and Second Tier nations (the remainder of the 188 recognized nation states). Snow foresees additional states breaking up into more autonomous nation states. However, like most analysts today, Snow has trouble defining the role of China regarding military, economic, and technical placement in his subclassification in the Second Tier.

Snow is well known for his publications on current strategy and policy formation at the highest levels of government. *National Security's* case studies and examples (as do those in his other

books) reflect what has actually happened and why. The author is conversant with the political and military players involved due to his association with the Army and Navy war colleges, where he has served as a faculty member.

Snow's concise reviews of national security processes and brief yet detailed case studies provide the student with material that is not merely descriptive but analytical. The First Tier and Second Tier arrangement is not an intellectual exercise or a substitution for "West versus East" but a serious inquiry into the world's changed relations since 1989. Snow's text stands singularly above most others due to its breadth of concepts: the definition of the international system; the history of military tradition and policy; the process mechanism itself; the history of the Cold War; and the real political and military problems facing the U.S. military and foreign policy makers, who must deal with dwindling budgets and rely on public support.

Part II is an important review, because one is forced to analyze the kinds of problems that Second Tier nations present to the First Tier, especially the United States. Chapter ten raises the current congressional conflict over the command relationships vis-à-vis the United Nations and the United States military in peacekeeping, enforcement, and imposition operations. Snow's ability precisely to describe and separate each operation is another strength of his work.

This book will be an excellent tool for career military officers moving into staff-level policy development. The

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author has provided descriptive frameworks for appreciating the mechanics of policy formation, its history through case studies and examples, and conditions that explain the dynamics of its evolving nature.

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Caldwell, Dan and McKeown, Timothy J., eds. *Diplomacy, Force, and Leadership: Essays in Honor of Alexander L. George*. Boulder, Colo.: Westview, 1993. 322pp. \$65

Nearly four hundred years ago, Francis Bacon stated in his *Essays* that some books "are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested." While that early proponent of the scientific method would have approved of the approach that the contributors to this book take, he would probably also agree that this book is not for everyone. Even within the national security community, those who do read it should do so only in part.

This collection of articles is dedicated to Alexander George, a scholar who frequently managed to "bridge the gap between the ivory tower of research and the world of people, power, and politics." The book begins with a short preface on George's impact on political science and ends with a biography of his unclassified publications. The editors and most of its contributors are among George's many former students, collaborators, and admirers in the academic world. They do a commendable job of explaining their theoretical orientation (one that relies on a full explanation of

decision processes and leaders' attitudes) and contrasting it with systemic approaches that minimize those considerations in favor of analyses of the dynamics of the state system. The body of the book comprises four parts: "The Beliefs of Publics and Elites," "Leaders and Central Decision-making Groups," "Interest Group and Bureaucratic Politics and Processes," and "Diplomacy and the Use of Force." Each part begins with a short summary followed by three articles relating to some aspect of its title.

Many of the contributing authors—most notably Larry Berman, Charles Hermann, Margaret Hermann, Ole Holsti, Robert Keohane, and Bruce Russett—are renowned within the academic fields of international relations and political science. However, they all share a commitment to the empirical study of international relations and also to theory building, although their approaches vary from the highly quantitative (statistical analysis of survey data), to modelling, to the focused comparison of case studies.

This book covers a wide variety of topics. Holsti demonstrates how American leaders' attitudes toward the Soviet Union changed over time, and Alexander Dallin gives an interesting interpretation of the erosion of Soviet optimism. Margaret and Charles Hermann offer decision-making models in two separate articles, both using decision trees to illustrate their analyses. Two of the twelve articles offer prescriptions for specific approaches to political issues (Herbert Abrams addresses presidential disability and Keohane uses a multilateral approach to