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Critical Choices: Selling Priorities in the Changing Security Environment

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mind or ask hard questions concerning the nuclear weapons systems it was expected to fund. Yet, never has a major nuclear weapons system been cancelled. In spite of the occasional congressional uproar, DoD and the executive branch usually receive the requested funding.

The parochial lens is the generally accepted role of Congress as provider of the pork barrel for constituents. The author cites numerous examples of legislators who, because of personal policy beliefs, voted against programs with potentially large payoffs (such as the MX missile and the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI)); he states that the impact of parochialism on nuclear weapons acquisitions is minimal. Interestingly, military base closures is the one place where parochiolism is strongest.

According to Lindsay the most important of the three lenses is policy. Congress votes its personal preference for what it considers the advancement of the public good. The three policy camps are: doves, who usually vote for "minimum deterrence"; hawks, who vote in favor of "counterforce and new weapons systems"; and moderates, who swing with the logic of the arguments presented to them.

Lindsay carefully notes that the three lenses appear in different degrees in different kinds of votes, and that therefore none can be ruled out. But the policy lens dominates nuclear weapons acquisitions.

This is an excellent, well documented study based on numerous interviews with congressmen and their

staffs, and it includes data from previous studies of Congress' voting habits and policy leanings. The book is easy to read, and Lindsay makes his point logically and succinctly. This work will prove useful to students of political science and will serve as an excellent primer for personnel heading to the Pentagon.

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Arnett, Eric; Kirk, Elizabeth; and Wander, W. Thomas, eds. *Critical Choices: Setting Priorities in the Changing Security Environment*. Washington, D.C.: American Assoc. for the Advancement of Science Press, 1991. 291pp. (No price given)

Critical Choices is a compendium of the 1990 Proceedings of the Fifth Annual American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Colloquium on Science and International Security. As is the case with many books of this genre, it is an eclectic mixture of panel discussions, luncheon addresses, question and answer periods, and specialized sessions.

The AAAS committee succeeded in bringing together a group of some of the most well known individuals in the field, including, among others, Dov Zakheim, Edward Luttwak, Lawrence Korb, and Ronald O'Rourke. A typical chapter in the book captures a several-page statement by each panelist in a particular area of interest,

170 Naval War College Review

a discussion among the panelists, followed by a question and answer period with each panelist fielding questions from the audience.

The range of areas covered is breathtaking. Sessions on "Redefining National Security," "Implications of the Diffusion of Military Technology," "Future U.S. Defense Requirements," "Issues on Science," "Specialized Sessions on Chemical and Biological Weapons," "Arms Control," "Nuclear Proliferation," and "Naval Forces and Arms Control" give the book an extraordinarily wide scope. All areas are given about equal space, and therefore the book moves along quickly; the reader does not get bogged down with too many details.

The chapter entitled "Naval Forces and Arms Control: Implications for Security" should be of particular interest to naval professionals. It generated some of the most interesting and difficult questions from the colloquium attendees. The panelists were Ronald O'Rourke (naval analyst for the Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress) and Eric Kunsman (Principal Deputy Director, Office of Strategic and Theater Policy, Department of State), who are well recognized experts in their fields and on the topic of naval arms control, particularly between the United States and the former Soviet Union.

If there is a unifying theme in this work, it is the connectivity between security requirements and emerging technology. However, its basically eclectic nature is its weakness, and it is unclear just how much editing the

editors accomplished: the book reads like a verbatim transcript.

The statements made by each of the panelists are well prepared, tightly woven, and interesting to read, but unfortunately they make up only about one-third of the book. The remaining panel discussions, and the questions and answers, are loosely wound and not particularly enlightening. At best, they represent verbal sparring. For example, in response to a statement made by Randall Forsberg who suggested that fundamental changes were taking place in the Soviet Union, Frank Gaffney responded, "I think you have to be brain-dead to believe that the Soviet Union has changed"; in response to Lawrence Korb regarding the lack of Nato participation during Desert Storm, Edward Luttwak noted that "Germans are wonderful at operating panzer divisions in the desert. Let them do it."

This compendium measures up as a work containing authoritative statements on topical issues by individuals who are experts in their fields. As entertaining reading, this book is a winner. As a meaningful addition to serious works in the national security community, it does not measure up. Readers who choose it for the former reason will be well entertained; those who choose it for the latter will be disappointed.

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Henkin, Louis, et al. *Right vs Might: International Law and the Use of Force*.²