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The Soviet Far East Military Buildup

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although naturally some of the objectives are more obviously relevant in some cases than in others. The material is up-to-date, the language stays completely away from academic jargon, and the book fills a need by providing information and analyses which are, in some cases, such as Nigeria or Mexico, not always simple to come by.

There are very useful tables on Third World arms imports and exports, arms production (South Korea), and Indian and Pakistani field forces.

The study was done under the auspices of Georgetown's Center for Strategic and International Studies.

FREDERICK H. HARTMANN
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Solomon, Richard H. and Kosaka, Masataka, eds. *The Soviet Far East Military Buildup*. Dover, Mass.: Auburn House, 1986. 301pp. \$29.95

Academics, and to some extent government analysts, have developed a cottage industry of sorts by holding "conferences" at locations that are often quite exotic and comfortable. Here they present arcane papers which are then published as a means of writing off the costs of the "conference." This is to be understood since academic salaries rarely provide the average professor with enough disposable income to afford vacations to exotic and comfortable locales. This book, unfortunately, is merely a collection of papers presented at such a

conference—the 1984 Security Conference on Asia and the Pacific (SECAP) held in San Diego, California. While the attendees represented a diverse and distinguished group of defense intellectuals from the United States and various Pacific nations, their presentations were, in the mind of this reviewer, shallow and broad, offering very little to the defense specialist that could not be gleaned from a periodic reading of the *Far Eastern Economic Review*. The edited book is further weakened by the attempts of Professors Solomon and Kosaka to organize the diverse presentations into some semblance of order and, in so doing, creating a very diffused and disjointed progression of barely related pieces. In short, it is a shambles. It will be of little utility to either the expert or casual reader.

Having said this, it should be pointed out that a few of the pieces in this work, when taken in isolation, offer some useful insights. Robert Scalapino addresses the strategic issues for the Soviet Union in Asia and draws a very clear and concise picture of the challenge of the Soviet Union to China and the limits and vulnerabilities of the Soviet position. Hiroshi Kimura also presents an interesting piece on the impact that the Soviet military buildup in North Asia will have on Japan and how it may affect U.S.-Japan relations in the future, as well as its effect on the Japanese perspective of their evolving military role in Asia. One other piece, although extremely brief, is interesting for the simple reason that a paper like it is so

rarely found in a Western publication. It is the nine-page chapter written by Yao Wenbin, a defense analyst for the People's Liberation Army of the People's Republic of China. He presents the Soviet threat as viewed from the Chinese side of the border. It is most enlightening and, in some ways, reassuring.

There are a few gems in this hodge-podge collection of papers, but they are too few to merit more than a cursory glance. Perhaps we could all be spared books like this if another means of providing vacations for academics and government analysts could be developed so they would not feel compelled to justify "conferences" by publishing their "tickets" for attending.

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EDWARD A. OLSEN
Monterey, California

McIntosh, Malcolm. *Japan Re-armed*.
New York: St. Martin's Press,
1986. 169pp. \$27.50

This is a very pedestrian book on the growth of Japan's postwar defense capabilities. Using mainly secondary sources, it rehashes well-known geopolitical terrain in a manner that is highly sympathetic to advocates of Japan's minimalist defense posture. It is, according to the dust jacket, written by a British journalist working on a doctorate in peace studies. Its prime value (for some) is its clear exposition of antinuclear, antimilitarist, and pro-peace movement sentiments that are

Lider, Julian. *Origins and Development of West German Military Thought: Vol. I, 1949-1966*. Brookfield, Vt.: Gower, 1986. 384pp. \$95.50

Julian Lider is best known for his works on *Military Force* (1981) and *Military Theory* (1983). With this new book, he enters the virgin field of West German military thought. In contrast to most recent writers on the topic, who have stressed either the political aspects of the decision to rearm West Germany or the nature and composition of the *Bundeswehr* under the rubric of *Innere Führung*, Lider seeks to answer the question as to whether there exists a distinct