

Naval War College Review

Volume 37
Number 4 *July-August*

Article 20

1984

Distant Water: The Fate of the North Atlantic Fisherman

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Recommended Citation

Smith, Lyman H. and Warner, William W. (1984) "Distant Water: The Fate of the North Atlantic Fisherman," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 37 : No. 4 , Article 20.
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol37/iss4/20>

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achieves the ideas it professes, but the British Empire's shortcomings were those of particular people in particular circumstances at particular times. The ideas themselves, of justice, of freedom, of prosperity—John Locke's Enlightenment trinity of inalienable rights, life, liberty, and property—were and are universal."

This is a verdict with which most US naval officers will likely agree. In its heritage from John Paul Jones' day to the present, the US Navy has drawn heavily on the example and traditions of the Royal Navy. For scholars and line officers, Professor Stokesbury provides an excellent short refresher course.

JOHN S. PETERSON
The Military Bookman
New York City

Warner, William W. *Distant Water: The Fate of the North Atlantic Fisherman*. Boston: Atlantic-Little, Brown, 1983. 338pp. \$17.95

Many Navy men transiting the North Atlantic in the '60s and early '70s saw huge numbers of fishing vessels off the New England coast. These incredibly rich fishing grounds once had been worked by wind and the muscle of the dorymen of Gloucester, Boston, and their Canadian brethren, and then by hard working powered draggers. Their markets, located in nations of beef-eaters, were not large; but if their vessels were small and their gear barely efficient, the East Coast fishermen of those times had their independence.

While the fishermen from this side of the Atlantic worked their traditional methods, after World War II the need in Western Europe for more food provided the economic (or state directed) incentive to apply new technology to fishing. Led by the British, large, oceangoing factory-trawlers began to appear—capable of locating electronically, catching, cleaning, processing, freezing, and storing great quantities of fish for market. Oceanliners compared to our vessels, these vessels took on the aspect of seagoing vacuum cleaners in what had been an untapped fishing preserve. Backed by large, well endowed parent companies or, in the case of Eastern bloc countries, by governments, these vessels appeared in ever greater numbers off our East Coast and began to tear into fishing stocks, to the consternation of the American and Canadian fishermen. As a result of the enormous pressures by these distant water fleets from Great Britain, West Germany, Spain, and the Eastern bloc, in 1976 the United States assumed economic exclusiveness of waters out to 200 miles from our coast. By and large, this ended the short era of the great distant water factory trawlers.

William Warner's book, *Distant Water*, tells in exceptionally readable manner the history, technology, biology, economics, sociology, and human psychology of this fascinating endeavor. His book is based upon his "making trips" to their fishing grounds in vessels from the United States, England, Spain, West Ger-

many, and the Soviet Union. These voyages were made in typical North Atlantic weather—rotten. This very keen observer describes fully both vessel construction and fishing methods. Warner's ability to enter into the life of the crews and describe the everyday happenings aboard hardworking vessels is exceptionally interesting. His writing not only reflects a great love of the water but shows a superb talent to observe and enjoy people. Above all, Warner is able to create a flow of information from the technical to the personal which makes this book eminently readable.

Distant Water is not particularly technical in regard to fishing gear, vessel construction, or fishing methodology. What Warner does is to give a good general picture of each which will satisfy both the layperson and professional seaman alike. For the Navy reader who shares the oceans with the men, and sometimes women, of the world's fishing vessels, *Distant Water* is certainly worth the time.

LYMAN H. SMITH
Commander, US Navy
Naval War College

Recent Books

Selected Accessions of the Naval War College Library

Annotated by

George Scheck, Mary Ann Varoutsos and Jane Viti

Bagdikian, Ben H. *The Media Monopoly*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1983. 282pp. \$14.95
In this impassioned account of the structure of mass media in America, Bagdikian, a Pulitzer Prize winning reporter, argues that the nation's press is largely controlled by 50 communications conglomerates that serve the private interests of their corporate owners, not the public interest. Since many of these firms interlock with other major corporations, Bagdikian charges that the media try to protect the corporate structure as well. Citing examples of dishonest public relations campaigns and suppressed books, articles, and television programs, he contends that the public's right to know is increasingly being thwarted. He finds the influence of mass advertising particularly damaging and describes how local news can suffer when independent newspapers are taken over by large chains.

Burton, John. *Dear Survivors; Planning after Nuclear Holocaust: War Avoidance*. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1982. 137pp. \$17.50; paper \$8.50

Using an epistolary format, Burton purports to address a group of nuclear survivors,