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Soviet Warships—The Soviet Surface Fleet 1960 to the Present

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These two volumes are the third part in a series by the Conway publishing house, the first two being *All the World's Fighting Ships 1860-1905* and *1922-1946* respectively. This pair covers the post-World War II era, during which there has been a major political and technical upheaval throughout the nautical world. Taken together, these books do a superb job of covering an enormous amount of information.

Of particular note in the first part (*The Western Powers*) is the section on the United States of America. The editors provide a thoughtful, incisive essay covering both the technical and political imperatives that drove the changing shape of the US fleet. The authors correctly identify two of the major themes of post-WWII US naval force structure as "the capability to attack land targets, both coastal and deep inland; and anti-submarine warfare." This, of course, is far from the whole story, but it does serve as a concise definition of two major trends. The section continues to concentrate on technological improvements and their influence on force structures.

Each of the volumes is organized around sections detailing particular countries. The coverage is exceptionally good on the Western Powers, not surprisingly. Each major class of warship in commission during the post-WWII years is detailed, and the photographs and sketches are first-rate. The volumes also cover both future and aborted developments in force structures (such as the VSTOL Support Ship Project, the Sea

Control Ship Project for the United States and the Aircraft Carrier Project of the Soviet Union).

In an era of threats from minor as well as major sources, it is important to have a sense of the naval capabilities of countries such as Libya, Iran, Iraq, and so forth. These are well covered in the second volume of the set, and are complete with thumbnail sketches of naval policy in such countries as well.

The information in the books continues into 1983, although the title implies that it ends in 1982. The authors have done a commendable job of projecting outward, giving the volumes a very contemporary perspective.

Given the scope of the works, the level of detail is satisfactory. There is a decent attempt made to cover weapons and sensors, although the books should not be purchased as a substitute for an edition of *Jane's* or *Combat Fleets*. The strength of the works is the sense of development and change that comes across in the post-World War II era. As reference works to a world of rapid change from 1947-1982, these volumes do a fine job of showing the progression.

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Lieutenant Commander, US Navy

Jordan, John. *Soviet Warships—The Soviet Surface Fleet 1960 to the Present*. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 1983. 128pp. \$18.95

This is a high quality product—well researched, thoroughly compiled and smoothly presented. It lacks the pretense of some publica-

tions in that the author seems to be attempting to share cautious insights of Soviet shipbuilding and operation rather than persuading the reader on the rightness of viewpoints having shaky or unstated foundations. One may quarrel with some of the inferences he draws, but every reader will admire the objectivity of his work and the candor of its presentation.

For years American arrogance caused us to look down our noses at Japanese watches "made of old beer cans" and Soviet naval units which so obviously copied designs of other nations. Today, the Seiko is copied, and we can learn from studying Soviet ship design. The Soviet Navy has more experience than any other in cold weather and heavy seas operations. Its designers have not been forced to compromise surface combatant durability and firepower by economists' assumptions that warships support carriers rather than the obverse. Their hermaphrodite carriers—to use the terminology of World War II—evidence a reluctance to remove combat systems to make space for operating aircraft. The empty deck space on many of our current combatants appears to reflect the influence of flattops on all designs.

This is a handy text for the novice or experienced naval scholar or for the naval officer who realizes he must know his (potential) enemy as well as himself.

D.G. CLARK
Naval War College

Murphy, Paul J., ed. *The Soviet Air Forces*. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 1984. 364pp. \$39.95.

Paul Murphy, at the time with the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board, compiled this book to "provide a comprehensive account" of the development of the Soviet Air Forces since World War II. The resulting book is highly useful in understanding Soviet aviation developments.

Though the book starts off poorly with an unrealistic introduction, most of the chapters are more useful. Stuart Cohen in "Communist Party—Air Forces Relationships" provides a useful discussion of the Soviet armed forces and the Party leadership, although his second page is a most confusing chart proposing to show retirement ages for Soviet general officers; John Greenwood and Von Hardesty provide an excellent chapter on "Soviet Air Forces in World War II," although that subject is beyond the primary purpose of the book; Clyde Autio next addresses "Soviet Aircraft Design" and Anton Dobler looks at "The Soviet Aviation Industry," both useful chapters; Paul Murphy provides a biography of "Chief Marshal of Aviation Pavel Stepanovich Kutakhov," who has been head of the Soviet air forces since 1969; and "Key Leader Profile" is a chopped-up but interesting chapter by Donna Anderson on the characteristics of Soviet aviation leaders.

Dr. William Schneider, Jr., astutely addresses "Soviet Frontal Aviation: Evolving Capabilities and