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Asian Security in the 1980's

Mark N. Katz

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exhaustive account of the various modifications that *Renown*, in particular, went through. Unfortunately he does not stretch his narrative to give us an in-depth evaluation of the overall success of the type. Neither does he account for the fact that throughout her 30-year career *Renown* was a notoriously happy and high-spirited ship; one might have wished to know what part tradition and leadership played in *Renown's* high morale, or whether it was merely a product of chance. But while the author works into his book much personal recollection of captains and crew, on evaluation of the human affairs of the ship he is weak. In fact, overall, the book is a thoroughgoing chronology rather than a perceptive history. But chronology has its uses, and for those with a special interest in the ship or in the period *Hit First, Hit Hard* is recommended.

ROBERT SHENK
Commander, U.S. Naval Reserve

Solomon, Richard H., ed. *Asian Security in the 1980s: Problems and Policies for a Time of Transition*. Cambridge, Mass.: Oelgeschlager, Gunn & Hain, 1980. 324pp.

This book contains several revised papers that were originally presented at a RAND Corporation conference on East Asian security held in 1979. Among them are several highly impressive ones that analyze in great detail the security relationships that exist in this region and how they are affected both by external, great power influences and by internal influences. For almost all countries in East Asia, the foreign policy of the Soviet Union is presenting an increased threat. Crucial to how these countries face this threat will be the policies of the United States. The Soviet Union, though, is not the only challenge to security in this region: both Vietnam and North Korea pose a threat to stability as does internal turmoil within noncommunist countries.

The essays in this volume are extremely good in discussing how the U.S.S.R., Vietnam, and North Korea may threaten stability and what the foreign policy options of the United States, People's Republic of China, and other East Asian nations might be. These essays are less insightful, however, in discussing the threat of domestic turmoil within certain noncommunist countries. The authors criticize the Carter administration for its human rights policies, which they see as potentially causing a danger of destabilization within certain U.S. allies that would increase their vulnerability to external attack as well as decrease their ability to counter it. While such a question is a valid one, the authors, unfortunately, did not examine the question of to what extent does continued dictatorship in South Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, and elsewhere affect the ability of these nations to defend themselves. Can dictatorships that refuse to leave office despite their unpopularity expect to command the same loyalty from their citizens as democratically elected governments? Indeed, is not the very existence of these dictatorships a cause of domestic unrest that the authors wish to see avoided? These questions are vital to the security of East Asian nations and thus deserve serious consideration.

In addition to security issues, several essays in this book examined economic ones affecting East Asia. Particularly interesting was that by Dr. Soedjatmoko that noted that there is a link between security and economics. Unfortunately, many Americans tend to regard these nations that it wishes to be allies for security purposes as enemies when it comes to trade. Paul Langer, for instance, seemed to feel that the solution of trade disputes between the United States and Japan that might block a more harmonious security relationship was for "further Japanese concessions and compromises in the economic

sphere." The Japanese might be expected to hold a different opinion on this matter. Considering the increasing economic competitiveness of Japan and declining competitiveness in the United States it might be salutary for both nations if the United States were more amenable to making certain compromises and concessions itself that would allow the United States greater access to the fruits of Japanese productivity and provide the United States greater incentive to increase its own.

The two criticisms raised here, though, are not ones that apply only to this book, but to American thinking about East Asia generally. In other respects, this book is a fine one, particularly with regard to possible American options in dealing with the different foreign policy problems that will be faced in East Asia during the 1980s.

MARK N. KATZ
The Brookings Institution

Thorne, Christopher. *Allies of a Kind: The United States, Britain, and the War Against Japan, 1941-1945*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1978. 772pp.

Christopher Thorne, a professor of international relations at the University of Sussex and a leading British scholar of Western diplomacy in Asia, has written an account of allied policy in the Pacific phase of World War II that is likely to remain unsurpassed for many years. *Allies of a Kind: The United States, Britain, and the War Against Japan, 1941-1945* is an awesome book, encyclopedic in research and scope. Indicative of its qualities, the book received the prestigious Bancroft Prize in American History in 1978.

According to Thorne, *Allies of a Kind* "is in many respects a sequel" to his earlier book, *The Limits of Foreign Policy*, that explores the response of the Western Powers to Japan's invasion of Manchuria in 1931. Thorne offers no

simple explanation for the failure of collective security in the ensuing debacle of Western diplomacy during 1931-1933. One essential point does emerge from his analysis of the intricately shifting patterns of action surrounding the Manchurian Incident: none of the principal actors in this drama possessed an adequate conception of the domestic and international forces that shaped and reshaped the choice of policies available to statesmen. In this respect, collective security could be said to have failed because of the inability of the Western Powers to comprehend one another's points of view, not to mention the views of the Asian states that were also involved.

With *Allies of a Kind*, Thorne continues his dual inquiry into Western diplomacy in Asia and the conditions for collective action among states. In this new work he is concerned with two questions. First, he seeks to answer how the Anglo-American alliance endured successfully, given the profound differences that separated London and Washington over the conduct and resolution of the Pacific phase of World War II. Second, he attempts to explain what the reconquest of Asia by the European colonial powers, in league with American arms, meant for Asian peoples. Many Asians had welcomed the collapse of colonialism in 1941-1942, even if they had opposed Japanese occupation.

The result is not a book meant for the casual student of international relations. As in his previous work, Thorne employs an immense amount of archival and secondary material, including both published and unpublished documents, official correspondence, personal papers, autobiographies, and biographies. To these he adds interviews and his own correspondence with a large number of participants. Where *Allies of a Kind* suffers by comparison with *The Limits of Foreign Policy* is in the lack of a tightly written narrative. Thorne