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The Year Book of World Affairs, 1981

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have been easier to follow had a copy of the North Atlantic Treaty (or at least the controversial articles, #3, #5, and #9) been included as an appendix. These deficiencies notwithstanding, *Creating the Entangling Alliance* is a useful and constructive book on the formation of the key security organization of the post-World War II period.

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Keeton, George W. and Schwarzenberger, Georg, eds. *The Year Book of World Affairs, 1981*. Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 1981. 288pp.

The purpose of this series of year-books is *not* to comment on the important events of the past year as such. Its "specific object," noted on page 1, is to "make possible analyses in a wider perspective and on the basis of more mature reflection than may be possible in a quarterly or monthly journal." If this caveat is not kept in mind one will be very surprised at this volume's contents. There is, for example, no article directly on the Middle East—and 1980 was an event-packed year for that area. Some of the articles could easily have been printed 2 to 5 years ago (and perhaps 2 or 5 years from now). For example, Kenneth W. Thompson's "Functionalism and Foundations in the United States," is in this category.

But the articles on the whole meet the standard set. Some of the 19 are of better quality than others. They range over a great variety of topics whose center of gravity is obviously the taste and preference of the two editors. The whole collection tends to focus somewhat outside the general politicomilitary framework. They include very specific titles such as "New Zealand and the European Community" and "External Indebtness of Less Developed Countries," to very general essays such as "Catasrophe Theory and International Relations." Among the more

interesting to this reviewer were Colin Legum's "Foreign Intervention in Africa(II)," Miguel Wionczek's external indebtness essay already mentioned (which is filled with well-selected data), C.P. Fitzgerald's "China's View of the World" (which is an excellent "philosophical" look at China), and Alfred P. Rubin's "The Panama Canal Treaties: Locks on the Barn Doors" (which exposes neatly the structural and technical defects in the Canal treaties). Each one of these is first-rate and a reader of this book with limited time could begin there and go on as time permits.

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Murphy, Paul J. *Brezhnev: Soviet Politician*. Jefferson, N.C.: McFarland, 1981. 363pp.

More than just another biography of another Soviet political leader, *Brezhnev: Soviet Politician* is an extremely timely study that examines Brezhnev's rise to power in one of the world's most complex and still largely closed political systems. In particular, while Brezhnev's career is in itself interesting, the book is most valuable for the insight it provides into the question of leadership succession in the Kremlin. Murphy takes the position that "conflict" is the principal element of Soviet politics resulting in a continuous process of rivalry, struggle and intrigue. Brezhnev, he contends, is an exemplary example of this process who possesses "the right mixture of tenacious energy, drive, cunning, discipline, ruthlessness, concealment . . . [and] above all . . . ambition."

Acknowledging that political biography, and in particular Soviet political biography, must contain conclusions often based on fragmentary and imprecise evidence, the author does indeed frequently rely on personal opinion and judgment to develop his study. He clearly identifies his own speculation,