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Europe at War 1600-1650

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120 NAVAL WAR COLLEGE REVIEW

isolation from continental Europe, and a fear of provoking the U.S.S.R." That pretty well says it right there and if it were not for the fact that it is such a well-written paper, there would be no use continuing reading.

The format of this paper is well structured. An analysis of the threat with historical background initially captures the reader's interest and respect for the writer's views. From there the paper is tightly organized flowing logically through a domestic appraisal of the Nordic nations. Of particular note are the political analyses of the Scandinavian countries. Margaret Leighton also foresaw, to a degree, the recent economic unrest in Sweden. While not required to hold this reviewer's attention, there are strategically placed anecdotes, such as the KGB activities in Scandinavia, that make reading this paper that much more interesting.

Other aspects of this paper are equally noteworthy, such as: an in-depth view of the status of the Communist Parties in the Scandinavian countries, the state of the social democratic experience within each nation and Soviet views *vis-à-vis* the tenuous Nordic Balance.

The Author writes with an interesting style and good perception and the book is an excellent primer for military, State Department, and business personnel with an interest in Scandinavia.

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Maland, David. *Europe at War 1600-1650*. Totowa, N.J.: Rowman and Littlefield, 1980. 219pp.

The series of European wars that occurred in the early part of the 17th century has traditionally been called "The Thirty Years' War." Dated from the Bohemian Revolt in 1618 and ending with the Peace of Westphalia in

1648, these wars have long been the subject of controversy among historians. While most have agreed that these struggles mark the transition from medieval to early modern Europe, there has been little agreement over their causes, nature, effect, or even their duration.

Traditional historians have seen the war as one that centered in Germany and that was sparked by the struggle between Catholicism and Protestantism. In this interpretation, religion was the principal issue and political concerns were secondary. The result of the war was the social and economic destruction of Germany at the hands of foreign armies that ravaged the land.

The traditional view has been modified in a variety of ways. C.V. Wedgwood's study, a masterpiece of descriptive and lucid writing, has long been considered the best available study in English. Written in the late 1930s, Miss Wedgwood's book reflects some of the early attempts to reevaluate the period. She played down the religious factor and stressed the senselessness of warfare. Writing at nearly the same time, the French historian, Georges Pagès, sought a broader interpretation of the war in terms of European international relations. His work is the most accurate narrative available.

Others writing in a variety of languages (only some of whose work has been translated) have continued the process of interpretation. Some have argued that the war was not so highly motivated by religion while others have attempted to prove that the war was not so destructive as had been previously believed. In recent years, new research has provided much new factual data. Overall, the trend has been to view the war as a more Europe-wide struggle than one confined to Germany and as a series of events that lasted more than 30 years. In trying to understand the events of this period, the student has been faced with a nearly impenetrable web of

PROFESSIONAL READING 121

detail and a puzzling confusion of differing interpretations.

Sharing this dilemma, David Maland, High Master of Manchester Grammar School in England, has labored with the problem of how to explain and to describe clearly to his pupils the most extensive war in European history before the French Revolution. His short book is a *tour de force* that is invaluable to specialists in the 17th century as well as to the general student of military history. The author states that his book is "merely an exercise in story-telling." Indeed, it lacks the arguments of a scholarly monograph and it fails to footnote, but the reader should not be put off by the author's modesty or the absence of academic appearances, Maland has provided a clear and unencumbered narrative that incorporates recent research and interpretations. By proceeding in this way, his deceptively simple approach has produced the best available narrative analysis of the war in English. The older works must now be left to specialists and to those who are interested in exploring personalities and the detailed descriptions of particular events.

Maland's narrative begins in 1590 and ends in 1660. His scope is European and is focused on the broad pattern of international relations and conflict between nations. The author's clear understanding of the interrelationship between strategic lines of communication, national aspirations, and the use of armed force will be particularly interesting to students of military affairs. Shifting from the traditional focus of the Thirty Years' War in Germany, Maland connects that struggle with the Eighty Years' War between Spain and the United Provinces, the rivalry between Sweden, Denmark and Poland for supremacy in the Baltic and the continuing strife between France and Spain, Bourbon and Habsburg. He explains the volatility of a number of events by showing their

relationship to the conflict between Spain and the Dutch. Specifically, he points out Spanish interest in protecting her land and sea lines of communication with the Netherlands and the Dutch determination to disrupt them while also safeguarding their own trade routes to the Baltic. When local problems and the ambitions of various princes touched upon these matters, they were quickly embroiled in a European-wide struggle.

Maland's succinct narrative and broad understanding of warfare in the context of international relations provides a solid framework on which to view the period. Beginning students who wish to have a clear narrative of the period as well as specialists who are grappling with the broad issues that lie behind their detailed work will find this small volume invaluable.

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Staar, Richard F., ed. *Yearbook on International Communist Affairs-1980*. Stanford: Hoover Institution Press, 1979. 486pp.

It is possible that 1979 marked a major crossroads for communism as an international movement. Beyond an overall atmosphere of ideological proliferation and diversity that has developed among the world's communist parties over the past two decades, armed conflict has emerged as a major means of political intercourse within the communist community of states. During 1979, warfare between rival communist regimes reached the highest intensity seen thus far with the month-long Sino-Vietnamese conflict and the ongoing Vietnamese campaign in Cambodia in the wake of its large-scale invasion during late 1978. Similarly, the trend towards overt military activism as a currently operative form of "fraternal support to friendly states and national liberation movements" continued