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World War II at Sea: A Bibliography of Sources in English

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144 NAVAL WAR COLLEGE REVIEW

reasons for the republican government's failure in China. However, he more strongly emphasizes the importance of the Northern Expedition, which effected the military unification of China if not the political centralization of its government.

Jordan also notes the urban orientation of the KMT as a critical weakness in an agrarian country. He and Sheridan both emphasize that while Chiang Kai-shek's policy of coopting the warlords into the KMT was successful in the short run, it sowed the seeds for continued discord and eventual failure of the republican government. Chiang was never able satisfactorily to control these disparate elements.

The reason for this failure, according to Jordan, was the Japanese invasion in 1937. Sheridan does not discount the importance of Japan's actions, but places greater emphasis on the failure of the KMT to implement successfully an ideology which would reduce the political and economic inequities within China.

Both authors mention the importance of military strength in the Chinese Revolution. The Northern Expedition—Chiang Kai-shek's major success—was to a large degree a political movement. However, in the final analysis (and contrary to the Communist historical view) it was military force rather than any rising of the proletariat which determined the outcome of this expedition and of the revolution as a whole.

The CCP's leaders, particularly Mao Tse-tung and Chu Teh, learned through early failures in Kwangtung and Hunan Provinces that while political action and ideology were vital, they could not succeed without strong military means.

Sheridan and Jordan agree that the Communists won out in China because they were able to carry on a process of reintegration through relatively rapid implementation of a rural-oriented ideology of political, social, and

economic unification. *China in Disintegration* and *The Northern Expedition* are both well-written, although the latter work is the better organized of the two. Jordan also provides a series of helpful maps.

James Sheridan's work, because of its readability and inclusive coverage, is a good starting point for gaining a knowledge of 20th-century Chinese political history. Donald Jordan's book is more for the specialist in Chinese studies but provides a greater understanding of 20th-century China than its title indicates. Both these works are valuable additions to the bibliography of the Chinese Revolution.

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Smith, Myron J. *World War II at Sea: A Bibliography of Sources in English*. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1976. 3v.

Myron Smith proved in his 6-volume *Bibliography of U.S. Naval History* that he is a careful and inclusive compiler and indexer. Coverage in those volumes ended with 1941, and in this new set Smith treats the years of American naval activity in the Second World War.

This set is divided into three parts: Volume I covers the Pacific Theater; volume II deals with the European Theater; and volume III includes "General Works" and a variety of specialized topics: shipbuilding, hardware, administration, personnel, medicine, and a chronology of naval events. Smith lists each item in the bibliography alphabetically by the author, provides necessary cross-references when an item includes material on more than one topic, and concludes the work with one cumulative index organized by key terms or names and another for authors. It is, perhaps, the frailty of the former index which is the least satisfactory portion of this work. On the positive side of the

PROFESSIONAL READING 145

ledger, many of the most important listings are annotated which is a great aid to the student.

One of the principal benefits of Smith's bibliography is that he includes nearly everything. Especially important for the scholar of naval affairs in World War II is his exhaustive rendering of articles in magazines and journals published during the war which suggest many vital issues of public policy largely ignored by postwar historians. Examples include the great "Steel Crisis," the economic impact of Navy procurement practices, and the militarization of innocuous aspects of daily life.

In sum, Smith has compiled a valuable research tool which has long been needed by naval historians. All should hope that his series will conclude with a subsequent set on the U.S. Navy and the cold war.

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Weigley, Russell F., ed. *New Dimensions in Military History*. San Rafael, Calif.: Presidio Press, 1975. 419pp.

The greatest schools of professional military higher education have always stressed the importance of military history. Military history is an indispensable substitute for direct experience in preparing the soldier for the problems and crises of leadership at the highest command levels. The object of military historical studies is not to develop a set of precise rules or a checklist with answers to political and strategic problems. Rather, the historical approach is designed to make the student aware of a great range of problems and to acquaint him with a variety of approaches and attempted solutions. Military history also seeks to make the student aware of the complexities of military-political problems and strives to create suspicion of simple answers and analogies.

This anthology, edited by Russell F.

Weigley, consists of lectures delivered in

the *New Dimensions in Military History* course, an elective given at the Army War College. Individual articles naturally cover a wide range of topics including studies of warfare in the 17th century, the problems of the Hapsburg multi-ethnic army, and studies of the problems of counterinsurgency. There are articles dealing with problems of national security and the military role in politics and diplomacy.

Despite the wide variety of topics and subjects there is a consistent and largely successful effort to focus attention on broad general themes and problems. The authors avoid trying to create predictive models. They do not seek to provide concrete rules for solving current problems. Instead they present a broad range of situations and problems. They describe the efforts of individuals and institutions to cope with these problems in order to demonstrate the scope, diversity, and complexity of issues that the modern soldier will have to face. Professor Weigley's anthology does indeed demonstrate that an officer cannot know what path to tread in the future unless he knows where he has been and what paths his and other armies have followed in the past.

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Wright, Edward Reynolds, ed. *Korean Politics in Transition*. Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1975. 412pp.

For a region whose political fate has been so substantially enmeshed in American foreign and domestic politics for the past three decades, the current level of specialized and popular knowledge on Korea is appallingly low. Serious scholarly effort remains limited to a virtual handful of American universities, and while substantial works have appeared, they pale by comparison with virtually any other area of comparable significance. The journalistic realm fares