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Armed Forces as Power

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Bromke, Adam and Uren, Philip E., eds. *The Communist States and the West*. New York: Praeger, 1967. 242 p.

Thirteen authors are represented in this collection of papers and lectures edited by Adam Bromke and Philip E. Uren. The common theme throughout the book is as stated by the title; however, the subjects range from Canada's role in East-West relations, to Vietnam, to Soviet policy toward underdeveloped countries. In tracing the evolution from the postwar rigid polarization between Moscow and Washington, as the two superpowers with their respective allies, to the current polycentrism, some very arresting views are presented. This is in part attributable to the fact that with only four exceptions the authors of the articles are Canadians. These writers place the happenings between the East and West in a different light from that in which they are normally viewed by Americans. In consequence, the observations may be regarded perhaps as controversial, but surely as highly interesting. The book is recommended to both staff and students.

J. W. COTTON, JR.
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Air Force

Cantril, Hadley. *The Human Dimension: Experiences in Policy Research*. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 1967. 202 p.

Following the trends of public opinion, learning how public opinion is affected by events, evaluation of public opinion in terms of the future — in short, discovery of the state of mind of a nation and its policy implications — such is the human dimension described by Professor Cantril. He introduces the book with two examples of social research, those obtained in Cuba and the Dominican Republic; then he considers the theory behind such research

and the tools used. The major portion of the book is spent in relating illustrations of different types of policy research accumulated during the period extending from World War II to the present day. In the last chapter the author discusses the use of policy research in U.S. Government operations.

In spite of the millions of dollars spent by Government and private sources for social science research of one kind or another, there actually is still very little such research initiated or even utilized by those responsible for Government policies on either the domestic or foreign fronts. The whole concept of research concerned with the psychological and political dynamics of people simply has not yet been effectively geared into the United States Government operation.

The author builds his case by recounting successful examples of his policy research exploits over the years; however, failures are not mentioned. He has treated the mechanics of this type of human research rather lightly but has provided several graphic examples of the results of his work. Although the book is a little weak in some areas, Professor Cantril makes a good case for the use of what is often an overlooked ingredient in our governmental decisionmaking. The book makes interesting reading for the "layman."

R. M. HARP
Commander, U.S. Navy

Coats, Wendell J. *Armed Force as Power*. New York: Exposition Press, 1966. 432 p.

Armed Force as Power by Brig. Gen. Wendell J. Coats, U.S. Army, is a detailed analytical study whose purpose is to examine selected critical conceptual mechanisms that have been operative in the interrelation of military force and political power. It is the published manuscript of an original dissertation submitted by the author as

partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. This work is dedicated to military professionalism, to the oft-repeated belief that military power is the ultimate extension of foreign policy, and to the thesis that decisive battle appears to be the only military solution that consistently fulfills the multiple requirements of strategy. The author notes that, from the perspective of peace, military strength is only one limited aspect of national strength, but from the perspective of war, military strength becomes a measure of national strength. He comments on the military advantage and quick decisiveness of a preventive war and provides a detailed analysis of the various types of military victories as an extension of national policies, noting that "victory" is the ambiguous political symbol for which men fight.

This work is filled with many valuable observations as to the role of the military. Acceptance of military professionalism has simplified the problem of integrating military considerations into national policy. In military operations the separation of policy and strategy is no longer possible, and tactical victory becomes the paramount objective when the vital interests of adversaries are vulnerable to direct attack. Interestingly, it is observed that there is no logic to conclude that an act of force will compel an adversary to do one's will; it may simply destroy him or eventually exhaust both antagonists. The concept and historical significance of a "just war" are traced from the writings of Machiavelli through to the Allied policy of "unconditional surrender" in the Second World War. In conclusion, it is noted that adequate military strength supported by the resolve to use it seems more conducive to national security than excessive emphasis upon highly superior force levels.

The writing style of the author is voluble and highly descriptive; however, the central points covered are frequently obscured through excessively erudite verbal gymnastics. The work is thoroughly annotated with footnotes and would be a valuable military professional reference volume were the style more direct.

J. G. THILSON
Commander, U.S. Navy

Fairbank, John K. *China: the People's Middle Kingdom and the U.S.A.* Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1967. 145 p.

This book contains a series of essays by Mr. Fairbank which were published separately in various periodicals. These have been updated to fit the current situation. The book is divided into three parts: "China's Revolution in the Light of Her Past," "The Taiwan Problem," and "Communist China and American Policy." The first part carries the theme that to know China is to be thoroughly aware of her history and concludes with the thought that "Peking's intractable mood comes out of China's history, not just from Lenin's book." In part II the author indicates that the American-Chinese relations are haunted by the ambiguous status of Taiwan; yet this problem is carefully and continuously ignored, at least in public. He indicates that a step toward clarification would be an explicit definition of American motives and some creative effort. The United States also needs the assistance of Taiwan in the study of the grave problems with which she is faced in the Chinese quarter of the globe. The third and largest section of the book decries the fact that the United States has avoided the entire China problem for the last 10 years in the hope that it would go away.

While a soft approach is not emphasized, Mr. Fairbank does advocate