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Battles of the Philippine Sea

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Lockwood, Charles A. and Adamson, Hans C. *Battles of the Philippine Sea*. New York: Crowell, 1967. 229 p.

Admiral Lockwood, World War II Commander of the Pacific Fleet Submarine Force, collaborating with retired Air Force Colonel Hans C. Adamson, has produced an absorbing account of some of the most brilliant days of American seapower. Beginning with the Mariannas invasion — breaching the “absolute national defense line” set by the Japanese to run from Kamchatka through the Mariannas, Truk, western New Guinea, around Indonesia, and on up to Singapore — and concluding with the invasion of Leyte, the book covers an action-packed 5-month period from June through October 1944 which saw U.S. carrier, amphibious, and submarine forces reduce the Japanese Navy to impotency and seal the fate of Japan. The authors have done an excellent job of highlighting the more important details of the many battles that took place. The writing is almost breezy, but the perspective and grasp of events is thoroughly professional. Comparing this relatively compact book with Professor Morison’s extensive two-volume coverage of the same events in his *History of United States Naval Operations in World War II*, one concludes that this new book is a worthwhile effort, eminently readable, and soundly conceived.

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Masters, Roger D. *The Nation Is Burdened*. New York: Knopf, 1967. 319 p.

Mr. Masters proposes that the United States can no longer afford the luxury of *ad hoc* decisions to meet crises in international politics as they arise. He

calls for a set of long-term objectives that the United States should develop for herself as a major power. His solution will appeal to many, especially those who harbor even a latent streak of isolationism. What is proposed is a return to the interactions of a pluralistic world organized in the manner of the traditional balance of power between existing or foreseeable superpowers, each with its own sphere of influence. The author does not feel that this requires abandonment of the American ideals which imply that we seek to foster democracy, peace, or international cooperation. Rather, he feels that this “Machiavellian manipulation of power” is the only feasible approach to the problem of a world threatened by the specter of nuclear holocaust,

since the pursuit of an international balance of power without regard to ideology or domestic institutions of other nations is both tolerable and normally defensible because it serves to strengthen American democracy. Insofar as we are convinced that our political order is worthy of imitation, our foreign policies can and should frankly emphasize our national interests . . .

Mr. Masters, of course, suffers from the occupational hazard of all “crystal-ball gazers.” His avowed panacea to the world’s ills may not indeed be a viable one. His premise is well argued, however, and deserves the attention of the casual as well as the serious student of U.S. foreign policy. His style will appeal to the orderly mind, and one trained to think in the manner of consideration of alternatives will find his logic plausible. Indeed, he is a master of the technique of considering alternatives and convincingly disproving and thus discarding those which fail to support his premise.

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