

Naval War College Review

Volume 21
Number 2 *February*

Article 21

1968

United States Policy and the Third World

A. J. Ashurst
U.S. Navy

Charles Wolf Jr.

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review>

Recommended Citation

Ashurst, A. J. and Wolf, Charles Jr. (1968) "United States Policy and the Third World," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 21 : No. 2 , Article 21.

Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol21/iss2/21>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Naval War College Review by an authorized editor of U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu.

Wolf, Charles, Jr. *United States Policy and the Third World*. Boston: Little, Brown, 1967. 204 p.

In this analysis of the relationship between the "third world" less-developed countries and the United States, the author considers some interesting and current problems and some even more interesting alternatives to present-day policies in solving those problems. Of particular interest to the military officer are his analyses of the counter-insurgency issue, military assistance, and economic aid and the relationship of the latter two factors to development. In the author's estimation there has been insufficient thought given to explicit determination of U.S. objectives in the less-developed countries, and, as a consequence, great difficulty has been experienced in rational direction of American efforts in these areas. In the first part of *United States Policy and the Third World* an attempt is made to indicate measures that could be taken to improve the defining of objectives. In the case of insurgency and counter-insurgency, for example, exception is

taken to the presently stated objective of "gaining popular support through economic assistance." Deeper analysis, according to the author, indicates that perhaps the provision of economic support in reality *assists* the insurgents by increasing their available resource base. The second half of the book is devoted to developing some quantitative tools that could be used by U.S. decisionmakers in achieving objectives. The author, however, is the first to admit that these tools are crude at best and would require significant refinement before they could be useful for other than comparative analysis of policies toward individual nations or groups of nations.

This book should be of interest to the military officer because Mr. Wolf endeavors to collate the military, economic, and political factors that affect U.S. policy toward "the third world." The prospective reader is cautioned, however, that some fairly sophisticated statistical techniques are utilized, especially in Part II.

A. J. ASHURST
Commander, U.S. Navy

— ψ —

A constant Naval superiority would terminate the War speedily—
without it, I do not know that it will ever be terminated honorably.

*George Washington: Letter to LaFayette,
15 November 1781*