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The Changing American Economy

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after World War II are recapitulated as case studies to prove his thesis. He is wary of Western penchant for a détente and believes that Soviet goals and tactics have not changed. The book is primarily an emotional appeal to the West to continue determined resistance to the Soviet Union; it lacks sophisticated analysis, and its documentation of research material is haphazard. It would seem reasonable that more alternatives in East-West relationships are possible than the simple black or white dichotomy expounded here.

R.O. BEAULIEU
Commander, U.S. Navy

Buchanan, Keith, *The Southeast Asian World*. London: Bell, 1967. 176 p.

A worthwhile book about Southeast Asian history, sociology, economics, and geography that challenges traditional concepts and still makes sense is unusual. Geography Professor at Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand, Keith Buchanan has written an essay that does just that: it makes sense. Beginning with the economic and political significance of Southeast Asia— an area half the size of the United States, with an estimated population in the year 2000 of one twelfth that of the world or 175 percent of the combined estimate for the United States and Canada— he then identifies three crucial factors influencing the present events of the region. These factors come into conflict, says Buchanan, when the Communist development model (North Vietnam, China, North Korea), offering an alternative to the apparent failures of “Western-style free enterprise,” meets an expanding American military perimeter. He asserts that Western man’s adverse influence on the region for the last 350 years has far exceeded that in the other two tropical regions of Africa and Latin America because of Southeast Asia’s accessibility to the sea. The massive colonial effort greatly disturbed the

socio-economic systems of the indigenous cultures. His thesis is that historical factors created the poverty of Southeast Asia, and, therefore, “man who created the conditions which led to poverty can equally certainly initiate the development which will lead out of poverty.” After drawing a concise historical-geopolitical analysis, the Professor candidly observes that Southeast Asia will most probably select a development model presently unacceptable to the United States and the Soviet Union. He suggests that a liberal socialism will emerge as the guiding formula, as other analysts have prophesied for Latin America. Whether one accepts the thesis of the author or not, the well-illustrated and documented historical background and country-by-country, social-political analysis are worth an evening’s reading. Buchanan concludes by making the point that the inhabitants of Southeast Asia are striving to be subjects, rather than objects, in international diplomacy.

I.E.M. DONOVAN
Lieutenant Commander, U.S. Navy

Coleman, John R., ed. *The Changing American Economy*. New York: Basic Books, 1967. 275 p.

The Changing American Economy encompasses the individual institutions, the marketplaces, the role of fiscal and monetary policies in the functioning of a stable, growing economic system, and the international impact of the outward thrust of the powerful U.S. economy. The views of 20 well-qualified professional economists have been compiled by John R. Coleman, the editor, to tell the story. The changes that have occurred in the economy during the century are related in terms of the decisions, progress, and the problems that have characterized them. They have been widespread some profound and spectacular, and others moderate. While the book is devoted to a review of these

changes, the reader may expect, as a byproduct, identification of the unchanging characteristics of the economy as well. No attempt is made to generate acceptance of new ideas or to gain adherents to current alternatives of economic doctrine. Contributing authors create an awareness of the strengths, imperfections, and inadequacies of the various components of the economy but make no particular effort to tell how to eliminate or improve the weaknesses. On balance, the reader is likely to be left with a feeling of cautious optimism over the economic prospects of the United States.

This book is considered to be an outstanding source for those who have a need for more knowledge and appreciation of America's dynamic economy. Likewise, it should appeal to those who seek to be able to understand and interpret vital national and international issues in terms of the economic implications which appear to grow in importance as U.S. efforts become increasingly directed toward the conduct of the affairs of the world society.

C.F. NEELY
Captain, SC, U.S. Navy

Donham, Philip and Fahey, Robert J.
Congress Needs Help. New York:
Random House, 1966. 203 p.

Congress Needs Help is a report of a management study of Congress by the Arthur D. Little Company. The study resulted from the realization, both from within Congress and from outside, that Congress was not doing its job effectively. The task of the authors was rather delicate in that Congress is sensitive to a change in its procedures, but yet its members are aware that they have not been sufficiently informed on the measures which have come before them for a vote. The authors do not fault the individual Congressmen, but point out that the myriad of tasks confronting a Congressman, the inad-

equately staffed, and the diversity of legislation are the primary factors in Congressional ineffectiveness. An example used to support this thesis was the House Science and Astronautics Committee, which, in addition to other functions, has under its jurisdiction the national Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The Congressional Subcommittee for NASA has the equivalent of only six full-time staff members to assist it as compared to the DuPont Company's 40-man staff for a similar type operation. Consequently, the committee has to rely mostly upon the information coming from NASA briefings and usually has only what NASA wants it to hear. Using for its basis briefings by the agency being reviewed, the committee then passes upon the multibillion dollar operation of the committee. The book provides an excellent perspective as to how Congress functions today, its strengths, its frustrations, and the role it can play on the national scene. The recommendations submitted appear to be feasible, but, as the authors state, Congress itself is the only body which can implement the recommendations. The book is well written, interesting, and refreshing in that it offers constructive criticism on a problem which affects us all.

R.H. WILSON
Commander, U.S. Navy

Farwell, George. *Mask of Asia*. New York: Praeger, 1966. 227 p.

Mr. Farwell has taken the title of his latest book, *The Mask of Asia; the Philippines Today*, from a quotation of Mr. Adrian Cristobal, which says in part: "Where Asians conducted a guerrilla war to preserve their identity, the Filipino, as a tactical ruse, put on the mask of the foreigner. He did survive the latter's regime, but when the time came to take off the mask, it had become a part of his face." The theme of the book is the problems of the