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# The Soviet Military Technological Challenge

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*U.S. Navy*

Georgetown University

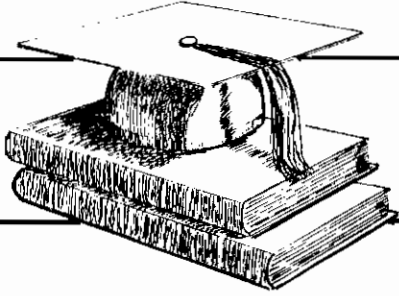
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## PROFESSIONAL READING

The evaluations of recent books listed in this section have been prepared for the use of resident students. Officers in the fleet and elsewhere may find these books of interest in their professional reading.

The inclusion of a book in this section does not necessarily constitute an endorsement by the Naval War College of the facts, opinions or concepts contained therein.

Many of these publications may be found in ship and station libraries. Certain of the books on the list which are not available from these sources may be available from one of the Navy's Auxiliary Library Service Collections. These collections of books are obtainable on loan. Requests from individual officers to borrow books from an Auxiliary Library Service Collection should be addressed to the nearest of the following special loan collections.

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Georgetown University. *The Soviet Military Technological Challenge*. Washington: 1967. 98 p.

This book is the sixth in the Special Report Series of the Center for Strategic Studies. The main thrust of the publication is that the gap between United States and Soviet military science and technology is rapidly closing. The Russians have recognized the need for a strong military-technological base. A brief and informative history of the remarkable Soviet progress in building an advanced scientific and technological base is presented to illustrate the point. Examples of Soviet resource utilization are also presented. Soviet technological developments cover the entire spectrum of military weapon systems, but the tendency has been to concentrate in high payoff areas such as nuclear weapons and advanced weapon delivery systems. Potential areas of Soviet technological efforts in the 1970 time frame are forecast. The critical element in the maintenance of an acceptable American military posture will remain the degree of technological advantage which the United States maintains over the U.S.S.R. Higher research and development expenditures as well as the procurement and development of advanced weapon systems are vital if the United States is to meet the challenge now being imposed by the continuing growth of Soviet scientific and technological capabilities. Although no new or startling concepts are presented, this book contains a brief and interesting examination of the role and importance of

science and technology in the protracted conflict environment.

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McNamara, Robert S. *The Essence of Security*. New York: Harper & Row, 1968. 176 p.

The author's stated objective in this brief work is an exposition of principles and philosophy he employed in directing the activities of the Defense Establishment. This has been accomplished with the brevity, clarity, and directness expected of Mr. McNamara.

The organizational framework of this book reflects both his conceptual attitude toward national security and the Department of Defense (DOD) under his directorship. U.S. security is viewed as an integration of three broad areas. The first area of consideration is the contemporary world and the abrasive interests of the chief adversaries. This discussion presents little new or startling; it is a synopsis of conflicting interests in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, South America, and an expression of deep concern over an inadequately trained mobilization base for NATO. It is apparent that Mr. McNamara views Europe as having primary claim on U.S. military resources.

In the second part of his work--*The Tools of Power*--the author makes a case for mutual deterrence. He exposes the folly of serious United States-Soviet ABM competition and supports realistic strategic arms limitations agreements in what he calls a "race toward reasonableness." Mr. McNamara substantiates the logic in which the shift from the 50-megaton syndrome to a strategy of flexible response, especially in support of commitments to other countries, was founded. He closes his arguments in this part with a discussion of the innovations that have taken place in the management of the DOD during his tenure as Secretary. These include his concept of analyzing weapons programs, force re-

quirements, military strategy, and foreign policy as a rationale for the development of the annual 5-year defense force structure. This reviewer might add, parenthetically, that the author has opted to emphasize his successes in applied management and overlooked those projects that have yet to earn this description, e.g., the F-111.

In part three Mr. McNamara opens with an observation on "gaps and bridges" in which he identifies the technological gap in Europe as being primarily managerial and makes the point that the basic problem is one of education. The Europeans are taken to task for failing to meet their broad educational needs. The United States, he chastises similarly for neglecting the education of its underprivileged. He cites projects that the DOD has initiated to assist in filling the U.S. gap, noting that while social progress is not a primary DOD responsibility the foundation of security is a stable social structure, and DOD should contribute where feasible. This philosophy is extended to the international scene in the author's closing words, "Just as collective security is the only sensible military strategy in a half-free and half-totalitarian world, so collective developmental assistance is the only sensible economic strategy in a half-fed and half-furnished world. Collective security and collective development are but two faces of the same coin." The implication is that as a rich nation we are not indebted to the poor nations, but we owe it to ourselves to see that the developing needs of these less developed countries are met.

This reviewer suggests that every U.S. military officer "owes it to himself" to read this brief trilogy on national security, regardless of individual characterization of Mr. McNamara as Secretary of Defense. The message rests both in the substance of the work and the perspective of the author.

R.M. LASKE  
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