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The Dirty Wars: Guerrilla Actions and Other Forms of Unconventional Warfare

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Middleton, Drew. *America's Stake in Asia*. Philadelphia: Lippincott, 1968. 240 p.

Drew Middleton, in his Introduction, states:

To show what Americans are doing in Asia, what the Asians themselves are doing, and to give some picture of the problems that face the continent are the purposes of this book. The opinions, of course, are my own. I am happy to say they bear no relation to those of the editorial page of *The New York Times*.

It was this last statement that interested the reviewer sufficiently to select this book for evaluation. Within the limits of the above stated purpose, Mr. Middleton has succeeded admirably in considering problems and prospects throughout the area. He discusses Japan, Vietnam, Laos, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Burma, India, Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan, the Philippines, and Indonesia. Some get relatively brief treatment, and others receive more thorough examination. There is no statement on Formosa. Although no chapter is devoted specifically to Communist China, her influence and threat are always considered.

The author's thesis is that the United States is involved in Asia whether she likes it or not; hence, it is not so much a question as to why she is involved as it is of what she will do there. The main problems are, on the one hand, the constantly increasing numbers of people and how to supply their food requirements, and, on the other hand, the threat that Communist China poses. Mr. Middleton sees the latter as the principal danger—one that can be greatly increased if the first is not solved. He reviews the traditional Maoist theory of using rural bases to encircle cities and then projects this to a global basis, wherein Western Europe and North America may be considered as the cities, while Latin America, Africa, and Asia are the rural areas. Of course, the United States is now actively engaged in

Asia. To thwart Chinese designs, the author advocates that first, America must prevent a North Vietnamese victory and then must improve economies in the Asian area to the point where governments and people are in a position to resist Chinese subversion. A major hazard appears to be an American isolationist sentiment toward Asia. Mr. Middleton submits that the United States, almost by default, is the only nation that can be of significant help and that she should be selective in her assistance and in the governments to which her aid should be extended, and not offer across-the-board assistance to any and all. Also of critical concern in that portion of the world is the Kashmir issue, which the author maintains has the potential for disaster in Asia. The United States, if only in her own interest, must make sincere efforts to resolve this problem. The book is well written, informative, and valuable to an understanding of U.S. interests in Asia. Mr. Middleton has indeed taken a stand apart from the editorial page of *The New York Times*.

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Robinson, Donald B., comp. *The Dirty Wars; Guerrilla Actions and Other Forms of Unconventional Warfare*. New York: Delacorte Press, 1968. 356 p.

This collection of articles, dispatches, and essays presents a solid source of material on guerrilla warfare and those involved in the suffering, heartbreak, successes, and failures of this most difficult and dirty form of fighting. There are no dry theories here, no charts, nor statistics. In compiling this volume, Donald Robinson has drawn no definitive limit as to what constitutes guerrilla and unconventional war. He obviously knows his subject well enough to understand that varied environments, political situations, and human attitudes tend to defy definition and that the

outer fringe of an obvious insurrection is often where the significant action can be found.

From Europe to Africa, from the Middle East to Latin America and Asia, the reader can monitor the painfully dated but pertinent bulletins of the Free Hungarian radio stations in October of 1956; accompany Algerian rebels on an operation; hear the Jordanian side of the border skirmishing with Israel; accompany mercenaries on a "Rabbit Hunt" in the Congo; peruse the diary of a North Vietnamese infiltrator; and learn the background of Trujillo's abortive attempt to assassinate President Betancourt of Venezuela. Joseph Kraft, Ramon Magsaysay, Arthur Campbell, Conor Cruise O'Brien, Arnaud de Borchgrave, Roger Hilsman, and Chairman Mao are among the contributors to this collection. Of particular interest is the introduction by Samuel L.A. Marshall. In addition to reviewing the first concern of postwar U.S. military leaders for the "grey areas" of Communist guerrilla activities, Marshall takes a close, hard look at Viet Cong prowess in guerrilla actions, separating truth from fiction. In his opening essay, "Thinking the Thinkable: Are We Beaten?" Donald Robinson projects a number of provocative ideas. "The fact is," he states at one point, "that guerrilla wars are not won by the big battalions; they are fought best by small units, well-motivated and well-trained. When you have to outnumber guerrillas ten or twenty to one, you are doing things wrong."

This book is part of the required reading for the fall elective "The Guerrilla and His World." It is recommended to all interested in the "dirty wars."

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Ward Barbara. *The Lopsided World*.
New York: Norton, 1968. 126 p.

Barbara Ward (Lady Jackson) needs no introduction to the professional

reader. She holds the distinction of being selected to deliver the first Christian A. Herter lecture series inaugurated in 1965 honoring the distinguished American who founded the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

The lecture series on the economics of plenty, the economics of privation, and the challenge of economic coexistence coupled with current updated material form the basis for her book called *The Lopsided World*. The author builds her thesis on the premise that a small number of states, equaling some 20 percent of the world's population, controls 80 percent of the world's wealth. It is not that the new nations do not grow, but while they walk ahead, the rich nations run. This gap has increased despite what she labels "North Atlantic modest efforts" to improve the situation. Lady Jackson draws upon history to show the problems encountered by wealthy nations in developing their economies throughout the years. She alludes to five critical points of change which are necessary fuel for sustained growth: the existence of a coherent and purposeful national sense; the training of minds in modern science, technology, and rational administration; the ability to produce savings; appropriate industrialization and the primacy of agriculture. They do not of themselves guarantee success. The machine must "take off" and also remain airborne. The question is whether or not other people's misery should be the concern of prosperous citizens. She holds that "the battle today is to convince the citizens who accept responsibility at home to accept it equally across the frontiers, across the lines of the map." Lady Jackson argues for a common shared humanity in which nations equal in self-determination come together to build a peaceful world where the barriers of exploitation and equality are discarded. The Western World has a