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Here Is Your Enemy

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PROFESSIONAL READING**BOOKS**

Cameron, James. *Here Is Your Enemy*. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1966. 144p.

Here Is Your Enemy is a rare eyewitness account of conditions inside North Vietnam in late 1965, by British free-lance journalist James Cameron. Although Mr. Cameron disclaims any allegiance to a political party, Communist or otherwise, he makes it abundantly clear that his personal sympathies embrace the cause of Hanoi and reject that of Washington. This may, in part, explain why this ban-the-bomb type of liberal has successfully gained access to Communist areas barred to other Western newsmen. It is not surprising then to find that the author's bread-and-butter letter to his host country should take the form of a 144-page paean to Ho Chi Minh. Despite the heavy propaganda bias, the book can provide the professional military reader with several revealing glimpses of North Vietnam at war. For one, the United States reaction to Norman Morrison's futile act of self-immolation on the Pentagon steps in November 1965 was, if recollection serves, one of horrified disbelief. In North Vietnam, if only half of the author's reporting is factual, the suicide created a far different sensation. The Vietnamese interpreted Morrison's final gesture as being so completely in accord with their own sense of values that they virtually canonized him in the press. They even composed a song in his honor entitled, "Norman Morrison Shall Never Die." For another, the description of American air strikes in the North from a ground-level perspective is of particular interest. Interspersed among travelog "fill" material and emotional anti-United States, pro-Hanoi editorializing, the author alludes to the passive anti-air warfare techniques that he saw in practice. For example, piles of road-building material were positioned along all major truck routes at regular intervals in order to expedite the repair of bomb damage. During the hours of darkness, convoys of Russian-make trucks traveled under strict traffic

control and blackout regulations. Fords, pontoon bridges, and ferries were utilized to bypass damaged bridges. During daylight hours, the roads were empty, and travelers religiously perfected their camouflage arrangements before seeking rest. Indeed, if Mr. Cameron's account is to be believed, the entire population has become obsessed with the cult of camouflage to the point where a cape garnished with fresh vegetation is considered fashionable attire. Model airplanes were whirled overhead on the end of long bamboo poles to furnish the peasant youth of both sexes with target practice. These cameos depicting the North Vietnamese at war, even though they were obviously selected to create a favorable impression, constitute the book's principal source of merit. As for the rest of the book--the reviewer found it superficial, prejudiced, and unpersuasive.

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Higham, Robin. *The Military Intellectuals in Britain: 1918-1939*. New Brunswick, N.J. Rutgers University Press, 1966.

Public opinion in Britain in the period between the World Wars was almost hostile to things military. From 1919 well into the 1930's the British government failed even to provide national guidance on which a military strategy could be based. As a matter of fact, disarmament was the theme of the day. In spite of the prevailing political climate and public opinion, or perhaps spurred by it, military strategy was not ignored. In his book Robin Higham brings together the biographies, ideas, and principal works of the leading military theorists in Britain in the interwar period. The book is logically organized into four major segments, namely, (1) environment; (2) the exponents of sea and land power; (3) the exponents of air power; and (4) comments and conclusions. Attention is devoted to the work of