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New Horizons for the United States in World Affairs

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PROFESSIONAL READING

BOOKS

Fisher, Sydney N., ed. *New Horizons for the United States in World Affairs*. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1966. 162p.

New Horizons for the United States in World Affairs is a newly published collection of scholarly papers presented two years ago at a conference of the Graduate Institute of World Affairs of Ohio State University. In all candidness, neither the book as a whole nor any of the articles is compulsively readable or refreshingly current. Actually, it must not be left that *New Horizons* lacks every vestige of timeliness simply because it re-covers problems which are the same that have faced the United States for 20 years, are liable to persist for another 20, and, as likely as not, will be around for another 20 after that: the world power situation, Communist China, containment of communism, the Middle East, Africa, and, of course, Latin America. The new thrust and theme of the book is not that the United States has emerged from her era of isolationism and become committed on the global scene to cope with such problems. That, indeed, would be old hat! Rather, it is that there are implications in the changing scene--the emergence of new states where colonialism once persisted, the rebirth of strength and pride in once war-torn, disrupted, and hopeless nations, and--perhaps most significant--the evolution of polycentrism to replace the simple post-World War II bipolarity--which are as important to the United States position in world affairs as the major problems themselves. These are not new thoughts, hopefully, for anyone who listens to world news or wrestles with a newspaper now and then, but if by chance anyone remains who does not know that the United States no longer wears the mantle of "free world" leadership perforce but rather must compete with other aspirants, then *New Horizons* has a reason for being and should be read.

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