

1967

The Kremlin's Human Dilemma

R.C. Watt

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review>

Recommended Citation

Watt, R.C. (1967) "The Kremlin's Human Dilemma," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 20 : No. 8 , Article 13.
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol20/iss8/13>

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Naval War College Review by an authorized editor of U.S. Naval War College Digital Commons. For more information, please contact repository.inquiries@usnwc.edu.

Disarmament Conferences when, by virtue of the "Yardley Black Room," the Americans gained access to the Japanese diplomatic codes. This gave the United States a virtual monopoly at the conferences and assured her achieving her goals. The flush of this victory brought the "Black Room" and interest in cryptology to the fore and seemed to assure its position in military and diplomatic circles. Events and personalities were later to cause great fluctuations in the interest and support, preventing a steady achievement in the field. Because of the dedication of a few, however, the art was never lost, but did pass back and forth from the Navy to the Army as various influences affected the individual services. It is amazing to read how the inner few were able, by combining hard work and intrigue, to continue to break the code systems and duplicate the machines used by the Japanese up through the advanced "purple" machines current at the start of hostilities in 1941. The work of the "purple" machines had the code name "Operation Magic" and those cleared to read magic messages were referred to as "ultras."

The individuals involved in this work on the Japanese codes and the part that each played in this drama which climaxed on that morning of 7 December 1941 are, in the opinion of the reviewer, the vital message of this book. The relating of how it all happened is important, but the devotion of some, the indifference of some, and the disbelief of others in this tense drama of national security stand as beacons to those that follow. Mr. Farago does not make heroes, nor does he make "goats," but the reader will sense the "if" situations and can make the judgment of how a bit more openmindedness, less complacency, less compartmentation, and fewer worries about protocol could have changed the

course of events. This intensely interesting and informative book is recommended for all naval officers and all others who have positions of responsibility in national security. Of great historical interest, it is a dramatic testimony to the cost of being complacent and routine at any level of responsibility in Federal Service.

F. C. GILMORE
Commander, U.S. Navy

Hindus, Maurice, *The Kremlin's Human Dilemma*. Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1967, 395 p.

The Kremlin's Human Dilemma provides a fascinating approach to viewing life in the Soviet Union. Author Maurice Hindus feels that the increase of individuality among Soviet citizens poses a development of major proportions and proceeds to investigate the thesis over a broad cultural spectrum. The book is divided into three main parts. The first two contrast life in the city with life in the village, while the last looks at the ideology-individuality conflict in more specific areas. Anything but dull, this latter group of subjects includes atheism, anti-Semitism, literature, Russification, and a novel facet entitled "Rediscovery of Sex." Mr. Hindus, a Byelorussian-born American, is a keen observer of the Soviet scene who writes with the authority of one who has traveled throughout the country over a period of many years. While carefully documented, the book avoids dryness through extensive use of novellike dialogue between the author and the wide range of Russians that he encounters. The author seems particularly adept in addressing the agricultural sector and its inherent incompatibility between a proven need for profit incentive and ideological altruism—work for work's sake. Indeed, his own peasant heritage provides an ideal base from which to con-

trast the old with the new in objective depth. While Mr. Hindus shuns sensationalism, he did obtain evidence of a brutal repression of a worker revolt in Rostov as late as 1964, indicating that the state continues to retain such action options in spite of a surface increase in personal liberty. The author concludes that the Communist Party will continue its absolute power over the Soviet citizens but predicts a near-future "palace revolution" within the Party, resulting in a shift toward Yugoslavia-type socialism with its closer marriage of ideology and reality. We live in an era where it is patently impossible to know too much about our major military adversary. *The Kremlin's Human Dilemma* fills a large void in a need-to-know area efficiently and interestingly. Accordingly, it is highly recommended to all.

R. C. WATT
Commander, U.S. Navy

Nghiem-Dang. *Viet-Nam: Politics and Public Administration*. Honolulu: East-West Center Press, 1966. 437 p.

Author Nghiem-Dang has endeavored to provide the American reader with a comprehensive and systematic study of public administration in Vietnam. In this political science treatise the opposing elements in the author's background as first, a practicing public official in what is now North Vietnam, and later an educator and scholar, are clearly evident. Unfortunately, the civil servant side of Mr. Dang's two careers is apparently the more dominant and seems to have compelled him to describe the inner workings of governmental institutions and bureaucratic procedures in needlessly minute detail. This descriptive maze required several evenings of disciplined concentration to traverse and digest and is considered generally unrewarding in terms of gaining additional insight

into the politico-military problems currently besetting South Vietnam. On the other hand, the author's years as a scholar occasionally shine through the pedestrian account and illuminate such important aspects as the contributions made by the Chinese, Indian, French, and American administrative traditions to the advancement of government in Vietnam. The passages regarding the flexibility and durability of the mandarin system of civil service and the differences between outright graft and corruption and ritualistic gift giving are particularly deserving of close attention. In all, it is doubted that *Viet-Nam: Politics and Public Administration* will ever become a classic in its field, but it can furnish the professional military officer with a useful guide to contemporary government in South Vietnam.

W. J. WHITE
Lieutenant Colonel,
U.S. Marine Corps

Steinicke, Dietrich. *Das Navicertsystem*. University of Hamburg: Research Group for International Law and Foreign Civil Law. 1966. 2 vols. 368 p.

The "Navicert System" (abbreviation of "Navigation Certificate System") was created and developed by the British Government during World War I and World War II as a system of effecting contraband control over neutral merchant shipping. The study has been divided into two parts:

Part I contains a systematic presentation of the special measures of the navicert system and their historical development during World Wars I and II based on numerous unpublished documents.

Part II is devoted to the study of the navicert system as it relates to international law. In this research a differentiation has been made between the voluntary and the compulsory na-