

1965

The Sea and the Sword

R. S. Hosier
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Oliver Warner

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quite naturally makes his strongest pitch for the continuation of the manned bomber in the total deterrent system. His arguments are not new to the military, nor are any of his concepts. He simply produces a well-thought-out case for providing a large spectrum of weapons systems aligned to provide maximum deterrence within the ability of the taxpayer to support, and of sufficient strength to leave no doubt in the mind of any aggressor that attack on the United States will bring not only immediate retaliation but the defeat of the aggressor. The guaranteed defeat of the aggressor is the key to his thesis. He fears the production of a system that will not convince the Soviets or the Chi-Coms that defeat is inevitable. He points out that anything less will not be a deterrent but, rather, an invitation to war. The book is written in the language of the layman and is for civilian consumption. While there is little new to the military man, it does make interesting reading.

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Warner, Oliver. *The Sea and the Sword*. New York: Morrow, 1965.
305 p.

Rather than having attempted an all-embracing history of the various countries bordering the Baltic Sea, the author has placed emphasis on what appears to be an English view of approximately five hundred years of Baltic conflict by land and sea and upon its results, temporary or more permanent. This book is therefore essentially a military history of the Baltic. Upon this matrix, international relations and certain economic and strategic factors are covered in order to insure a certain reason for the bloodletting that seems to be characteristic of the Baltic peoples during this period. Interesting detail concerning power struggles involving such notables as Gustavus Adolphus, Peter the Great, Charles XII of Sweden, Napoleon, and Hitler are covered. Superimposed upon the narratives concerning these well-known leaders are details of the rise and fall in military and political dominance of various countries bordering the Baltic. Also, the struggle involving the political integrity of Poland and creation of Germany as a world power is outlined. The influence of such fringe countries as Spain, France, and England is also analyzed in order to assist in placing the military aspects of the Baltic during this period in clear perspective. Finally, a significant part of the book is devoted to the twentieth-century history of the Baltic and the influence played upon it by the United States and the United Kingdom.

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