

1962

The Balance of Terror: Strategy for the Nuclear Age

Pierre Gallois

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Recommended Citation

Gallois, Pierre (1962) "The Balance of Terror: Strategy for the Nuclear Age," *Naval War College Review*: Vol. 15 : No. 3 , Article 11.
Available at: <https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/nwc-review/vol15/iss3/11>

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Gallois, Pierre. *The Balance of Terror: Strategy for the Nuclear Age*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1961. 234 p.

Pierre Gallois, is a retired French Air Force General. A former strategic planner for the Supreme Allied Command Europe, he presents here a novel but controversial strategy. General Gallois believes that to outlaw atomic weapons from the arsenals of the United States and Russia would create an illusion that only conventional weapons would be used in a war among the great powers. Once engaged in the struggle, every major power would then hasten to produce the explosives allegedly outlawed. It is safer then to prepare for the total, ultimate, absolute war, a war which Gallois believes can never take place, because the risks have become out of proportion to the goal to be achieved. In support of his strategy, General Gallois examines in considerable detail the retaliatory as well as the defensive forces available to both the Soviet and the United States. He then analyzes the conditions under which an attack on either country might be launched, with a corresponding conjecture on the outcome. General Gallois' book will occasion considerable discussion by strategic planners everywhere. Many will disagree with his outspoken views, but all should find his book thought-provoking as well as interesting.

May, Ernest R. *Imperial Democracy; the Emergence of America as a Great Power*. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1961. 318 p.

Imperial Democracy is a history of the rise of the United States to the status of a world power. The unique feature of this book is the considerable portion of it devoted to the reaction of foreign powers to the United States as a growing menace. In a relatively few years, the attitude of these foreign powers changed from indulgence and patronage to fear and respect for the increasing might of the United