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Ten Years of Storm

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Courlander, Harold. *Shaping Our Times*. New York: Oceana, 1960. 242 p.

In a very clear and concise manner the author traces the United Nations from its inception to the present time, and demonstrates by use of abbreviated case histories how the various organs of the United Nations have functioned, both within and outside the context of the Charter. He indicates where the United Nations has succeeded and does not hesitate to point out its failures and shortcomings, showing by example how various forces in the world have tended to influence the position of specific nations and regional groups. This book is recommended to anyone who is interested in a short primer on the United Nations.

Ching-wen, Chow. *Ten Years of Storm*. New York: Holt, Rinehard and Winston, 1960. 323 p.

The author of *Ten Years of Storm* was a high official of the Chinese Communist Ministry of the Interior for eight years before he fled to Hong Kong in 1957. As Lin Yutang says in the foreword, "Here at last is a book by a Chinese who knows the true story of the Communist regime. The facts presented make the story believable, even though he is a Chinese talking about China." One of the important conclusions he draws from his long look at the Chinese Communist state is that the Westerners are foolish to pin their hopes on "Maoist" heresy. Peiping has a motive for every bit of information it gives the West. It may well be that the much-discussed Sino-Soviet dispute is a Communist gambit to enhance Khrushchev's stature as a peace-seeker. Mao will postpone any major quarrels with the socialist fatherland until the capitalist West is buried deep. On that point he is inflexible. He will not overly antagonize the helpful Soviets while China remains poor and underdeveloped, which will be considerably longer than some naive Westerners suppose. Chow discusses very freely and in detail, giving names, the series of fronts, movements,

struggles and liquidations by which the Communists achieved absolute sway. Though it is practically impossible for a Westerner to grasp the details and Chinese proper nouns, this book is convincing in its authenticity. The author concludes by discussing the weaknesses of the Communist regime and the hopes for China. There may yet be a great leap forward by those who have nothing to lose and their humanity to regain.

Ismay, Hastings L.I. *The Memoirs of General Lord Ismay*. New York: Viking, 1960. 488 p.

This autobiography covers the life of General Ismay from his initial service in India in 1902 until his retirement in 1957, the most emphasis being on the World War II period. It is a very clear description of the central direction of the war by one who was "in the middle of the web" as Churchill's Chief of Staff. General Ismay worked continually with the principal British and American leaders and attended the main wartime conferences at Moscow, Washington, Yalta, Cairo and Teheran. His reporting appears to be straightforward and factual, does not indulge in personalities and tells of his own involvement with modesty. Churchill's figure, as it should, permeates the narration of decisions and events. The writer includes portraits of the major Allied leaders but is somewhat noncommittal about the contributions of General de Gaulle, possibly reflecting Churchillian sentiments on the "cross of Lorraine" which the Prime Minister bore. In his reporting of the associations with the Russians, the reader may detect the influence of future events, for he appears to have foreseen the nature of the postwar East-West relations. This autobiography is very easy reading and is of interest to one desiring a brief account of the central direction of the war—the organization, the decisions and the personalities involved.