

BOOKS



Capsule reviews of books of general professional interest. Any book listed may be purchased by MCA members via Gazette Book-service at reduced rates. See page 14 for other listings.

POLITICAL POWER: USA/USSR. By Zbigniew Brzezinski and Samuel P. Huntington. (Viking, \$7.50.)

The authors of course need no introduction. Both are well known to the military reader. The subject matter—convergence or evolution of the two great powers—has been a long time coming, and well worth the wait. The two great rivals for power today confront each other from different political bases, and with different aims and methods. Yet, many comparisons have been made between the two peoples, the way of life, the military might, the economic and social structures of the two systems.

In four chapters of masterful analysis, the authors consider the general implications of political power under each system, the ideas that govern its use, how it affects the individual, who wields it, and how policy is implemented. The parallels drawn between the two countries are startling.

We should feel no great surprise over the idea of convergence of political systems. The idea that governments evolve naturally has been around since Aristotle. Reading about it, however, never seems to lose its zest.

AMERICAN WAR MEDALS AND DECORATIONS. By Evans E. Kerrigan. (Viking, \$6.50.)

A handy reference history of those "bits of cloth" which have helped to keep us going since 1782. Color illustrations.

BLACK LAMB AND GREY FALCON. By Rebecca West. 2 vols. (Viking, \$2.95 per vol.)

A paperback reprint of the definitive study of Yugoslavia, first published in 1941. Rebecca West is always good—in this case she is superb.

TRACKS ACROSS THE SKY—THE STORY OF THE PIONEERS OF THE U.S. AIR MAIL. By Page Shamburger. (Lippincott, \$4.95.)

The third of Martin Caidin's Airmen & Aircraft series, this book is well written, very interesting history. A veteran

pilot, Miss Shamburger obviously knows and loves her subject. Beautifully illustrated.

THE CONSERVATIVE PAPERS. (Doubleday, \$1.45.)

An election year paperback, this collection of essays presents a conservative study by conservative experts on a host of subjects, domestic and foreign, vital to America's future. Highly controversial.

LEGION OF STRANGERS. By Charles Mercer. (Holt, Rinehart & Winston, \$5.95.)

By far the best history of the French Foreign Legion known to this reviewer. Covers the whole span of this fascinating corps of outcasts, both its history and the characters who made it.

TSARS, MANDARINS, AND COMMISSARS—A HISTORY OF CHINESE-RUSSIAN RELATIONS. By Harry Schwartz. (Lippincott, \$5.00.)

This is indispensable background for anyone interested in the Soviet-Chinese rift—and who isn't?—which started much earlier than most of us think. A member of the *New York Times* editorial board, Mr. Schwartz is a veteran expert in this field. Very worthwhile. Maps.

THE END OF ALLIANCE—AMERICA AND THE FUTURE OF EUROPE. By Ronald Steel. (Viking, \$3.75.)

The author takes a hard look at our current western policy and does not like what he sees. His main argument is that NATO has outlived its usefulness and actually has grown dangerous to America. Intelligent, extremely controversial writing.

NRA FIREARMS & AMMUNITION FACT. (Published by the NRA, \$2.00.)

Articles, questions, answers, definitions, charts, tables, drawings, and photographs about rifles, shotguns, pistols, revolvers, cartridges, shells, sights, ballistics, proof marks, collecting, reloading, gunpowder, history, bullets, air guns, pellet guns, optics, and about everything else on the subject.

SOUTHEAST ASIA: ILLUSION AND REALITY IN POLITICS AND ECONOMICS. By Lennox A. Mills. (University of Minn. Press, \$6.50.)

If you're of a mind to review your thinking on Southeast Asia, you would do well to start with this book by Lennox A. Mills, professor emeritus of political science, University of Minnesota. Mills analyzes the governments of the various countries in the area and shows through careful rationale, that all the governments are dictatorships or oligarchies, even though they may exist on paper as democracies. He also stresses the importance of this fact in a realistic consideration of the problems involved.

There is information in this book that is essential to the political scientist, the economist and the military. Each is concerned with the present and the future of this area. It is impossible to separate the effort of each—we've been caught in that error too often in the past. For one volume, this has a powerful lot to say.

CIVIL AFFAIRS: SOLDIERS BECOME GOVERNORS. By Harry L. Coles and Albert K. Weinberg.

A special studies edition of the U. S. Army in WWII series. The life and times of the Civil Affairs Division, and the problems that amazing organization faced and solved. It takes the reader from the USA across the Atlantic to North Africa and Europe; from the great domestic debate over whether soldiers are qualified to be governors, to the testing grounds of North Africa and Sicily; from the planning at the seat of government to the operations in two theaters; from political, economic and legal problems through difficulties with supply, health, food, water, currency, partisans, refugees, displaced persons, extirpation of totalitarian influence, protection of cultural heritage—wide ranging and fully documented.

Well, can soldiers be governors? You're damn right they can. We provided the politically bankrupt, worn out countries of Europe with the best government they've had in centuries.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES. By Edward Dumbauld. (University of Oklahoma Press, \$9.95.)

Judge Dumbauld, of the United States District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania, has written the only book on the Constitution which combines in a single convenient and readable volume a comprehensive history and interpretation of each clause of the document by which this nation still governs itself, more than 175 years after the document was first drafted.

To the patriot it is much more, it is a pilgrimage.