

THE SOVIET AIR FORCE SINCE 1918. By *Alexander Boyd*. Foreword by *John Erickson*. New York: Stein and Day, 1977. xx, 259 pp. + 12 pp. photographs. \$10.00.

Alexander Boyd's study is an important contribution to Soviet military history. Books on the Soviet air force are not rare. The Western studies tend to concentrate on technical aspects while those published in Russia cover technical as well as historical and operational matters. Soviet books addressed to the latter questions, however, are unreliable and are guilty above all of omitting unpleasant facts about the air force, particularly the damage caused by Stalin and the *Luftwaffe*. Using a large number of Soviet and Western sources, Boyd has done a remarkable job of writing a detailed history of the Soviet air force covering such fascinating subjects as the Russo-German cooperation in the twenties; early Soviet theories about the deployment of air powers; employment of imprisoned designers by the NKVD; the use of the air force in campaigns in the Far East, Spain, and Finland; the failures in the first two years of the Great Patriotic War; and finally victory and postwar rebirth. Also interesting and informative is the author's description of such pioneer figures as P. I. Baranov, Ia. I. Alksnis, and V. V. Khripin, as well as a host of aircraft designers.

Despite its general excellence, the book suffers from one major fault. The author uses footnotes to amplify information given in the text rather than indicating the source, which seriously hinders further reading and research on the part of the reader (even though the volume does include an extensive bibliography). Also, scant attention is given to party political work, with no mention of such wartime commissars as N. K. Bulganin, P. S. Stepanov, and N. S. Shimanov, who were keeping a watchful eye on the commanders. In his coverage of the role of the Soviet air force in the Spanish Civil War, Boyd relies heavily on a subjective study by M. Sanchis written at the height of Franco's power, and fails to balance it with memoirs of the pro-Communist commander of the Republican air force, Ignacio Hidalgo de Cisneros. The extensive bibliography does not include the memoirs of Marshal F. Ia. Falaleev, Marshal A. E. Golovanov, and Minister of Aviation Construction A. I. Shakhurin, nor does it contain the best biography of Ia. V. Smushkevich by D. Ia. Zil'manovich, biographies of such air force leaders as S. A. Chernykh and N. A. Ostriakov, or a fair number of relevant articles, mostly from *Voenna-istoricheskii zhurnal* and *Sovetskaia voennaia entsiklopediia*.

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SOVIET NAVAL INFLUENCE: DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN DIMENSIONS.

Edited by *Michael McCWire* and *John McDonnell*. Published for the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies, Department of Political Science, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. New York and London: Praeger Publishers, 1977. xxxvi, 660 pp.

Western awareness of rising Soviet sea power in the 1960s and 1970s has generated an impressive number of articles and books describing this phenomenon and analyzing the nature of the perceived threat to Western, and especially American, naval objectives. Leading scholars and researchers of the subject have been meeting periodically at Dalhousie University, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, under the auspices of the Canadian Maritime Warfare School and the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies of the University. Studies resulting from the first two sessions appeared under the titles *Soviet Naval Developments: Capability and Context* (1973) and *Soviet Naval Policy: Objectives and Constraints* (1975).