

FOCUS ON MAPS OF WORLD CRISIS. By Jack Bloomfield. 1962. [New York: Oceana. vi + 90 pp. U.S. \$5.]

Teachers and students of international relations have long suffered from the absence of maps showing post-1945 developments towards independence, or illustrating the danger spots in a bipolarised world. One of the difficulties in providing adequate material has been the speed with which new countries and boundaries have appeared and made their own contribution to what has been described as the 'international frontier' (Hall, *Mandates, Dependencies and Trusteeship*, 1948, p. 3).

The preparation of new and satisfactory wall-maps takes time, and in any case what is really needed is a handy political atlas. The volume prepared by Dr. Bloomfield helps to fill the gap. It is true that the major political issues of the day reflect the struggle for world leadership between the two colossi of Washington and the Kremlin. From the point of view of persons outside the United States, however, this collection perhaps lays excessive emphasis on the role and views of the leader of the Western bloc.

When dealing with Cuba (pp. 34-7) it might have been fairer to point out that it was not only the Soviet Union that had doubts about the legality of President Kennedy's 'quarantine', although it is true that Swedish doubts were expressed in more measured terms. Again, the commentary upon the Berlin dispute (p. 47) leaves the impression that it is only American policy and strength which confronts the Russians and the East German authorities in that divided city. It would also appear that it is only Washington which is concerned about preserving the independence of Laos and Southeast Asia (pp. 54-8), and nowhere is it made clear that in so far as the 'offshore islands' are concerned American policy is out of line with that of many of her allies (pp. 60-2).

Despite these reservations, this collection of maps on centres of crisis; the search for (American) friends; Africa; Latin America; Western Europe; the Middle East; Southern and Eastern Asia; the race for space (with maps of only Grisson's and Glenn's flights); the nuclear race; and the United Nations, will prove a boon to all interested in the world and its problems during the second half of the twentieth century. Perhaps in the next edition a detailed map of the Sino-Indian and related borders showing the McMahon Line might be included—the present map of 'Communist China on the March' (p. 59) is hardly adequate for this. A map on Western nuclear fallout might also appear opposite that on 'Radiation from Russia' (p. 83), while a detailed map showing the significance of Indonesia and its neighbours would be a useful addition.