

CONFRONTATION AND INTERVENTION IN THE MODERN WORLD. By URS SCHWARZ. [New York: Oceana. 1970. pp. vi + 218. \$7.50].

The value of this small book for the student of international relations is lessened somewhat by the bias of the author which is all-pervading. His anti-Soviet and anti-communist prejudices are so intense that a somewhat unbalanced estimate of the actions of the western world, and particularly of the United States as its leader, as compared with those of the eastern world is the result. Mr. Schwarz is aware of such dangers, for he condemns the writings of Richard J. Barnet, who has analysed the United States interventions, as being "biased in favor of change and of revolution as such, as a means of change 'if there is nothing better' and is a passionate plea against an imperialist outlook and a militaristic analysis of the world environment. *This sheds doubt on the factual accuracy of many of its statements*" (p. 125, italics added). What should one say of a work that appears completely unaware that there is grave doubt whether, at the time of China's reassertion of authority, Tibet was indeed a 'country' (pp. 39-71), that nowhere gives any indication whether the overflight by U-2 aircraft of the Soviet Union might be illegal (p. 39), that provides no hint that the United States might conduct its policy with as much concern for

gaining points over the Soviet Union as vice versa (p. 43), which barely mentions the role of the United States in Guatemala (p. 124), and certainly makes no attempt to assess this against the activities of the Soviet Union in Hungary (p. 117), to name but a few instances. Perhaps one of his most glaring pieces of 'objectivity' lies in the assertion that Khrushchev's announcement to attend the General Assembly in 1960 "was eagerly seized upon by ambitious men like Tito, Castro, Nehru, Nasser" (p. 47).

Confrontation and Intervention in the Modern World is a somewhat provocative and selective, but nevertheless interesting account of a number of incidents, particularly as they affect the Cold War. Its usefulness is damaged, however, by an inadequate index — there is no mention of Kashmir, Indonesian confrontation with Malaysia, Indo-Pakistan relations, Guatemala, and the like, though many of these are referred to in the text, although often inadequately. In addition, the writing is careless — he says that the proposed Iraq-Jordan confederation "inflamed resistance against the King of Jordan and the dictatorial regime of Nuri-es-Said in Iraq. On July 14, 1958, in Baghdad, the government was overthrown in a bloody military *coup*, and the dictator and the King, Faisal II, were assassinated" (p. 127). Any reader can be excused for imagining that Faisal ruled in Jordan.

Despite its drawbacks, the book serves as an example of how issues may be put together in order to show their role as parts of a comprehensive scheme and to serve the needs of an *a priori* stance.

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