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Book Notes

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BOOK NOTES

THE POLITICS OF PEACE: AN EVALUATION OF ARMS CONTROL. By John H. Barton. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1981. Pp. 232.

Long before the withdrawal of the SALT II treaty from senate consideration, some commentators had already concluded that the SALT agreements could no longer be expected to work toward explicit restrictions on the U.S.-Soviet strategic arms competition. As Mr. Barton points out, the political framework underlying the SALT treaties has radically changed. The author concludes that the current arms control approach is, for political reasons, unable to achieve its stated ends, that is, a reduction in strategic weapons and a lessening of tensions between the two superpowers.

The author states, as clearly as possible, the benefits of arms control. Before the early 1960s, disarmament talks were generally perceived to be merely propaganda tools. Since then, treaties such as the Limited Test Ban Treaty, the Non-Proliferation Treaty, and the SALT I agreements have been ratified. These have brought international respectability to arms control. As Mr. Barton points out, however, the outlook for future agreements appears to have collapsed in the present political climate.

This book also examines the theoretical arguments underlying arms control and focuses on some common ground that might be acceptable to both sides. The author is at his best in analyzing and integrating the various forces that have an important impact on arms control policy.

The style of writing is clear and concise, with little of the confusing technical language that usually accompanies such a work. Mr. Barton's book stands as a good introduction to the subject for those who do not have a strong background in the field of strategic arms limita-

tions talks. While the author does point out some actions that could offer hope for future cooperation, the tone of the book suggests that prospects for success are bleak.

GERMANY AND AMERICA: ESSAYS ON PROBLEMS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND IMMIGRATION. Edited by Hans L. Trefousse. New York: Brooklyn College Press (distributed by Columbia University Press), 1980. Pp. 247. (\$23).

The essays composing this book were originally papers presented at a Conference on German-American Relations and Immigration in Commemoration of the Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Birth of Carl Schurz, held on October 3-5, 1979, at Brooklyn College.

Organized into five sections, these essays deal with German-American relations from a historical perspective. The first section, "Diplomatic Relations Between Germany and America," contains five essays dealing with subjects ranging from Imperial Germany's "irresponsible" underestimation of America's strength to American relations with the Weimar Republic and Hitler's unrealistic evaluation of American military and moral strength. The second section, "Immigration Problems," deals with the two major waves of German immigration into the United States; before the American Revolution and following 1848. Prof. Trefousse examines the differences between these waves of immigration and the influences that each had upon the development of America. The third section, "Individual Experiences and Incidents," deals with the contributions of certain individual German immigrants to American life. The fourth section, "The Nazi Period," deals with the effects that the growth of Naziism in Germany had upon German-Americans, as well as the effects of America's policies of isolationism on "anti-German refugees" and America's attempts to negotiate peace between Germany and the Allies. Finally, the fifth section, "Postwar Relations," deals with the choice of procedure to be followed in relations between American occupation forces and German citizens. It also deals with American action, or lack thereof, with respect to the plight of Jewish Displaced Persons.

A problem with this book is that its title belies its contents. The reader expects to find essays dealing with the problems caused by German immigration to America and the effects of these problems on German-American relations. Instead, one finds essays dealing with various subjects and time periods linked together by the common theme of German-American relations. In their present form, these essays stand

as fine individual works dealing with what, in reality, prove to be diverse subjects. Taken as a whole, though, the book lacks a cohesive thematic core. Perhaps the true intent behind the publication might better be understood had Prof. Trefousse entitled his work, for example, "Commemorative Essays in Honor of Carl Schurz," or had he used these essays as bases for two separate works: one on relations between Germany and America spanning the years between the two World Wars and the other on the contributions of German-Americans to the American political scene.

