

factors which had forced Alexander to oppose the Treasury now ensured the retention of the Singapore naval base for another decade.

This book is neither naval nor political history in the conventional sense of those terms. In stressing the important dimensions of maritime power and the struggles between defence requirements and Treasury necessity in British post-war policy-making, Murfett offers an original view which complements the broad-based works of scholars like Dockrill, Owendale or Frankel and the more narrowly constructed writings of, for example, Peter Dennis (on Mountbatten in Southeast Asia) and M.R. Gordon (on Labour's foreign policy). Like many historians, Murfett has himself written valuable monographs on topics which then crop up as part of the broader study. For example, the present work puts more fully into the context of defence policy the 1940 *Amethyst* crisis, of which Murfett's *Hostage on the Yangtze* (1991) is far and away the best account. *In Jeopardy* is a very good piece of policy history which brings into focus the complexities of British defence planning in the years immediately after the end of the war in the Pacific.

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***Australia and North-East Asia in the 1990s: Accelerating Change.***  
Canberra: East Asia Analytical Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 1992. 306 pp.

This book presents the reader with yet another useful collaborative effort between the Australian Government, the academic community at the Australian National University and a variety of private consultants under the auspices of the East Asia Analytical Unit at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Building on a report completed by Ross Garnaut in 1989, entitled *Australia and Northeast Asian Ascendancy* (hereafter cited as the Garnaut Report), *Australia and North-East Asia* attempts to identify and succinctly explain the factors which contribute to Northeast Asia's ongoing and dramatic structural change, as well as many of the other accompanying trends and patterns which are

emerging there. It is clear from the beginning of the text that substantive academic research underlies this book, thus making this particular volume a unique and sound analytical work. In assessing the value of the book, it is important to keep in mind its intent. This is not a purely academic piece which is intended only for researchers and scholars. Rather, it is meant to provide private and public sector policy analysts and decision-makers with a succinct overview of the key issues which will confront Australia as it attempts to carve for itself a niche in Northeast Asia's emerging security and economic order.

Chapter One begins with a thoughtful, if brief, reflection on Northeast Asia and how Australia might shape its relationship with the region's members through a variety of policy initiatives. By reviewing the themes which were highlighted in the Garnaut Report, and some of the resultant policy recommendations, the introductory section provides readers with a quick summary of the Garnaut Report and lays a foundation on which the following chapters and the analysis are built.

The next three chapters are extremely well organized, and touch on a variety of important issues which will confront Australian officials as they attempt to grapple with Northeast Asia's ongoing adjustments. While these chapters are indeed comprehensive, and include discussions on a variety of important issues (such as Northeast Asia's place in the global economy, its emerging energy crisis, as well as the internationalization of the Japanese yen, to list only a few), it overlooks some issues which, if this volume was to be updated, might warrant further consideration.

If Australia's public and private sectors hope to gain insights into the ongoing process of structural change in Northeast Asia, it would be quite valuable for them to gain an appreciation of the unique path East Asia has followed towards regional integration. Often touted as the "new regionalism", this process has been compared with the "old regionalism" of the 1950s and 1960s which drove the regionalization of Western Europe. While the old regionalism was state-driven and relied heavily on institutions, the new regionalism is shaped by the imperatives of the region's markets, the flow of intraregional investment, and avoids extensive institutionalization and European-style legality. Not only does this have an impact on the very nature of the integration process, but it also results in a very different sort of regionalism. While many Australian officials are probably quite aware of this, a brief discussion of this distinction may serve as a useful way in which to frame Northeast Asia's ongoing dynamism as it entails numerous subsidiary issues which are also of interest to the audience at which this publication is directed.

One such issue is the growth and proliferation of subregional economic zones (SREZs), or "growth triangles". The growth of these functional, sub-state production/export processing zones, which are designed to attract foreign direct investment, has been astonishing and has helped fuel intraregional integration. The proliferation of growth triangles throughout Northeast and Southeast Asia sets out a series of constraints and opportunities for Australian economic interests. As Australian policy-makers attempt to come to grips with the region's dynamics, not only is it crucial that they understand how SREZs influence the flow of trade and finance in the region, but they must then attempt to devise strategies that will ensure Australian firms continued, if not enhanced, access to these particular markets. Hence, including a discussion of this phenomenon in a future edition would be extremely valuable.

Another important issue, which has not been overlooked in this volume but deserves a more comprehensive discussion, is the importance of the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC) forum and the notion of "open regionalism" to Australia's interests in the region. Although APEC's agenda has become much more ambitious than many ever expected at its inaugural meeting in 1989, it must still overcome some significant hurdles. While its members *formally* agreed to the organization's new Action Agenda at the 1995 meeting in Osaka (a strategy for implementing the 1994 Bogor Declaration), a number of the organization's Asian members are less enthusiastic about the rules-based transparency and legality which the Action Agenda seems to imply. Furthermore, as Dr Mahathir continues to lead the charge against APEC with his proposed East Asian Economic Caucus (EAEC), the invaluable role which APEC plays in ensuring open regionalism and Australia's ongoing influence in the region's affairs may yet be impeded. Clearly, then, the APEC process and the challenges it must overcome in the next few years should be discussed in greater detail if Australian officials are to better understand the issues which they must confront.

Tied to the issue of open regionalism is the prospective role Japan might play in leading the region's economic order and whether or not it will facilitate trans-Pacific economic relations or abandon the APEC process and enhance regional barriers to commercial interests from outside East Asia. Although much of this depends on Japan's domestic politics and the outcome of the next election, Japan's decision to lead (or not lead) does present yet another dramatic structural change and transformation in Northeast Asia which directly impinges on Australia's

interests and warrants increased attention. While Appendix 5 provides a concise empirical assessment of Japan's considerable, and growing, financial power in the region, it does not explicitly link this phenomenon to Japan's prospective leadership role nor does it clearly identify how this impinges on Australia's interests in the region.

Notwithstanding these criticisms, however, this volume is a seamless blend of identified themes, analysis and empirical data. Keeping in mind who this volume is intended for, it is a comprehensive research effort made accessible to interested observers and decision-makers.

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***Dynamics of Regional Politics: Four Systems on the Indian Ocean Rim.*** By W. Howard Wriggins with F. Gregory Gause, III, Terrence P. Lyons, Evelyn Colbert. New York: Columbia University Press, 1992, reprinted 1995. 338 pp.

Regional dynamism, more so now than during the era of big power rivalry, is an important component of international politics. While a few powers dominated global issues only a decade ago, the power play now has undergone changes, with more actors assuming prominent roles. Needless to say, in order to understand the present geopolitics, one has to comprehend the past, and that is the main thrust of the contributors of the book on *Dynamics of Regional Politics*.

The study covers four regions that are washed by the Indian Ocean and the South China Sea: the Arabian Sea-Persian Gulf region; South Asia; the Horn of Africa and Southeast Asia. The writers are scholars and practitioners with vast experience in their chosen regions; they have worked either for the United States Department of State, or for leading academic institutions. The main issue they seek to address is the patterned relationships that mark each of the four regional systems and each region's links to external states, as well as to understand the internal forces that shape the foreign policy of the states in the regional