

craft as a weapon of war; the one which fought the greatest of colonial wars (Libya), which perfected the first Blitzkriegs, which dominated the continent in aviation and automotive technology for over ten years". One wonders what the author means by "greatest" with respect to the Libyan War inasmuch as he almost ignores the far more traumatic prophetic and despicable Ethiopian War. In general the reader does not know what to do with this list of achievements.

Another example is Barclay's handling of Italo-Greek relations. Greece is described as openly imperialistic with an "insatiable territorial appetite" and he uses Ciamuria or southern Albania (Northern Epirus) as an example. Claiming that only 9,000 of the 63,000 inhabitants were "linguistic" Greeks, he says that it was Italy's role to defend the remainder. On Greek relations he customarily cites Luigi Villari, a noted fascist apologist. Much more reliable figures can be found in P. Pipinelis, *Europe and the Albanian Question* (Chicago, 1963). In general, Greek demands for Thrace, the Dodecanese, Smyrna and Asia Minor are lumped together and described as imperialistic, whereas Italian claims and possessions are treated as the natural prerogatives of a great power.

The merit of the book is that in tracing the course of Italian foreign policy it stresses the very important connection between the Balkans and Africa. But the excessively nationalistic tone prevents the author from offering more subtle explanations that might have increased our understanding of this very important connection.

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Bryson, Thomas A., *American Diplomatic Relations with the Middle East, 1784-1975: A Survey*, Metuchen, N.J., The Scarecrow Press, 1977, pp. 431.

While we now have the works of John A. DeNovo, Leland Gordon, James A. Field, and David Finnie, to say nothing at all of other studies of the longer story of American interest and policy in the Middle East, there has been a need for a single summary volume which would sketch the general outlines of American policy essentially from its foundations, outlining the commercial, the religio-cultural, and even the political interest in the area, and bringing the story essentially down to date. Professor Bryson has attempted such a sketch, going back to the period of the American Revolution and coming down to the Palestine conflict, the Cyprus issue, the oil and energy crisis and other problems which have disturbed the peace of that much troubled area. It is necessary to get the deeper and broader picture because the situation has been so badly misunderstood, if known at all. As Professor Bryson himself remarks, "the story of the American diplomatic experience in the Middle East is an almost forgotten saga frequently overlooked by historians", or consigned to well-concealed footnotes. One still gets the impression at times that the United States became interested in the area about 1919 and that the American interest was largely confined to support of the Zionist program in Palestine. Professor Bryson's work should disabuse the student of any such limited notion.

Essentially, the Bryson book begins I) with the American Revolution, tells the story of the conflict with the Barbary States of North Africa, the Greek struggle for independence from the Ottoman Empire (1821-1830); II) it carries through World War I and the interwar era to 1939, with the basic problem of the Open Door for American commerce and industry; III) it considers World War II as a watershed in American interest and policy in the Middle

East. As the area moved from the periphery more toward a center of American interest, we have the Truman (1947) and Eisenhower (1956) Doctrines, the basic interest in regional security, the quest for oil, the American support for the establishment of Israel, American assistance programs in the Middle East, the interest in the Turkish Straits and the Suez canal, and the establishment—on earlier foundations—of the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean.

In the light of the long history of American relations with the Middle East, the author feels that the American Government will establish “a policy based on real and vital interests associated with oil, trade, the Suez Canal link, transportation and communication routes, and stability. In so doing it will establish a policy based on a true community of interests that are concrete and not permit the apparent interests between the United States and Israel to obstruct the achievement of those goals lying within the scope of the American national interest”.

There are excellent chapter notes and a bibliography which should serve to guide the student who desires to plunge more deeply into this fascinating subject. Meanwhile it is to be hoped that Professor Bryson will take the time to go through the first edition of his work, polish it, and fill out the text with more significant detail.

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