

WORLD POLITICS

*A Quarterly Journal of
International Relations*

Volume XLII
October 1989—July 1990

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Individuals: \$20 per year; \$33 for two years; \$48 for three years.

Institutions: \$35.00 per year.

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Back Issues: WORLD POLITICS is available in microfilm or xerographic copies from University Microfilms, Ann Arbor, MI 48106. Two years after publication, complete volumes are available in microfiche form from KTO Microform, Route 100, Millwood, N.Y. 10546. Individual issues in the current and two preceding volumes may be ordered from The Johns Hopkins University Press, Journals Publishing Division, 701 W. 40th Street, Suite 275, Baltimore, MD 21211-2190.

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WORLD POLITICS (ISSN 0043-8871). Published quarterly by Princeton University Press. Vol. XLII, October 1989–July 1990. Second class postage paid at Baltimore, MD and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to WORLD POLITICS, The Johns Hopkins University Press, Journals Publishing Division, 701 W. 40th Street, Suite 275, Baltimore, MD 21211-2100. Printed in the

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ABSTRACTS

INTERNATIONAL LEVERAGE ON SOVIET DOMESTIC CHANGE

By JACK SNYDER

Conventional wisdom holds that the success of Gorbachev's domestic reforms would probably enhance Western security, but that there is nothing the West can do to make this outcome more likely. This conventional wisdom is right on the first count, but wrong on the second. The author supports his conclusion by three bodies of evidence: the effect of the international environment on the domestic politics of great powers in general over the past century; the history of the Soviet Union in particular; and the current constellation of political forces in Gorbachev's Russia.

THIRD-WORLD CONFLICT IN SOVIET MILITARY THOUGHT:

DOES THE "NEW THINKING" GROW PREMATURELY GREY?

By CELESTE A. WALLANDER

"New thinking" in Soviet foreign policy may change Soviet understanding of the nature of conflict in the third world, Soviet interests in those conflicts, and therefore Soviet conflict behavior. While these shifts are widespread and significant, they are being resisted by military analysts, which indicates that Soviet policy may not be so easily or directly altered. Many military writers accept that escalation risks are extreme and threaten Soviet security, and others discuss local, nonclass, and intractable features of third-world conflicts. However, military analysts do not accept revisionist, class-transcendent definitions of Soviet internationalist duty. It is on this point that new thinking is most likely to founder in Gorbachev's attempts to change Soviet third-world policy and behavior. With the changes in Soviet domestic politics, military participation in security and foreign policy debates may be effective in restraining the more radical innovations implied in civilian analyses.

LOCALISM, ELITISM, AND IMMOBILISM:

ELITE FORMATION AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN POST-MAO CHINA

By CHENG LI and DAVID BACHMAN

This essay discusses the social background and career experiences of a previously unstudied group of Chinese elites: the mayors of Chinese cities. The data are compared with available information on basic-level leaders and higher-ranking cadres. China's mayors are relatively young, have not been in their posts very long, are college graduates (usually majoring in engineering), and quite often are mayors in cities in their native provinces. This last finding is counter to all Chinese bureaucratic practice dating back to the early empires. The authors relate these characteristics to broader developments in the Chinese political system. In particular, localism and elitism are reinforced by China's new mayoral elite; furthermore, the patterns identified appear to contribute to growing political immobilism in China.

1992: RECASTING THE EUROPEAN BARGAIN

By WAYNE SANDHOLTZ and JOHN ZYSMAN

Under the banner of "1992," the European Communities aim to remove all barriers to the movement of persons, capital, and goods among the member countries. The 1992 movement comprises a set of bargains among European elites. Structural change (relative U.S. decline and Japanese ascent) provoked a rethinking of European roles and interests. The 1992 project emerged as a response because of: (1) the policy leadership exercised by the Commission of the European Communities, with support from a transnational business coalition; and (2) a changed domestic political context in several key countries—specifically, the failure of previous national economic strategies and the transformation of the left. The changes under way will alter regional business competition and politics and will affect the world economic system.

THE USSR AS A "WEAK STATE":

AGRARIAN ORIGINS OF RESISTANCE TO PERESTROIKA

By DON VAN ATTA

The party-state apparatus's structure, which makes it incapable of implementing systemic reforms, is a principal source of resistance to Mikhail Gorbachev's policy of radical reconstruction (*perestroika*) in the USSR. This apparatus took form in the struggle to subdue the peasantry in the 1930s. Its basic means for managing agricultural production (and, to some extent, industrial production as well), is the mobilizational campaign. But campaigns are by nature intermittent and thus ineffective at eliciting subtle, long-term changes in organizational or individual behavior. For perestroika to succeed, alternative instruments for policy implementation which offer effective political and economic incentives for increased production must be developed. Despite its pervasiveness and intrusiveness, the Soviet state is incapable of effectively implementing many kinds of change in society. In that sense, it is a "weak state."

Why Peace Breaks Out

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by Stephen R. Rock

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To test his hypotheses, Rock examines four interconnected cases of great power relations during the period 1895–1914. Two illustrate how the potential for war was successfully defused: the United States and Great Britain, and Great Britain and France. By contrast, hostilities were not resolved in another two cases: Great Britain and Germany, and Germany and the United States. In light of his analysis, Rock considers U.S.-Soviet relations of the present era and the prospects for an end to superpower hostility.

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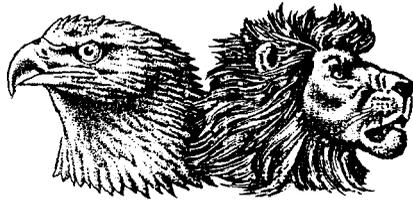
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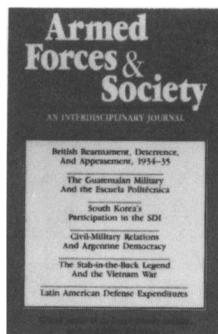
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