

egter bloot bestaan uit 'n versameling briewe en vertellings wat hy van die familie en naasbestaendes van die tereggesteldes ontvang het, bespreek Jooste en Oosthuizen elke geval in konteks teen die breë verloop van die oorlog. Hulle lig ook telkens die bespreking met stawende dokumente soos klagstate, mediese verslae en dies meer toe. Jooste en Oosthuizen het dus deur hul navorsing daarin geslaag om in Deel I van hul boek aansienlik op Jordaan se werk uit te brei.

Deel II van Jooste en Oosthuizen se werk is in sy geheel 'n nuwe toevoeging tot Jordaan se oorspronklike werk. Daarin word die teregstelling van 22 burgers en burgerlikes ná verhoor deur Britse militêre howe, asook 'n verdere 24 teregstellings sonder verhoor bespreek; laasgenoemde verwys spesifiek na die opspraakwekkende 'moord-orgie' (p.224) van 'Breaker' Morant se *Bushveld Carbineers* in Noordoos-Transvaal, waartydens Boere, burgerlikes en kinders op koelbloedige wyse tereggestel is. Deel II is baie meer oorsigtelik as Deel I en beslaan slegs 45 bladsye teenoor die 165 bladsye van laasgenoemde. Dié wanbalans is volgens die skrywers aan 'n gebrek aan bronne (pp.187, 188) te wyte. Dit is egter duidelik dat alle beskikbare bronne nie uitgeput is nie; daar is byvoorbeeld geen enkele werk wat spesifiek oor die optrede van 'Breaker' Morant en die *Bushveld Carbineers* handel, geraadpleeg nie.

Die werk word afgesluit met 'n kort evaluering van die Britse optrede in Suid-Afrika aan die hand van die Haagse Konvensie, meer spesifiek in soverre dit die teregstelling van rebelle, republikeinse burgers en andere aangaan. Hulle kom tot die gevolgtrekking dat die "onregverdige en onbillike maatstawwe waarmee die tereggesteldes geoordeel is en die valse gronde waarop hul ter dood veroordeel is ... van die regspleging van die Britse howe 'n bespotting gemaak (het). Tog was die teregstellings as sodanig nie 'n oortreding van die Konvensie nie. Wat wel 'n skending van reg en geregtigheid was, is die feit dat die oorwinnaar nie ook voor 'n hof gedaag is om hom teen dergelyke aanklagte te verdedig nie" (p.231).

Synde 'n gedenkboek, is die werk, soos die skrywers dit ook onomwonde stel (p.10), op die Afrikaner gerig en daarom tot 'n mate 'n subjektiewe uitkyk op die gebeure. Dit is nietemin 'n uiters leesbare boek wat 'n aanwinst vir die boekrak van beide die historikus en die gewone leser sal wees.

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IF WAR COMES TOMORROW. THE CONTOURS OF FUTURE ARMED CONFLICT

M.A. Gareev (translated by YV Fomenko and edited by Jacob W. Kipp)

Frank Cass, London: 1998

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The concept of future war and the controversial concept of a revolution in military affairs represent concepts and an evolving debate that could easily be perceived to be a pure American concept. The fact however is that Russian thinking on military theory and practice contains a strong line of thinking and concurrent ideas on this issue.

The Russians have traditionally held strong and original thoughts on military theory and practice of which the deep operations theory and their views on building their maritime power are but two examples. In this publication much of their future thinking is being articulated and expressed by general Gareev. As the author, his experiences and visions originate from a military career spanning more than fifty years. His views, theories and future perspectives are placed into context by Jacob Kipp who relates the future contours constructed by Gareev to national and international security before presentation of the original ideas of Gareev.

The first chapter is a thorough introduction by the editor into the world of Russian thinking and in particular that of general Gareev. In his efforts to familiarise the reader with the author, the issues as well as the concept of a revolution in military affairs and the Russian response, Kipp sets the stage for Gareev's more abstract thoughts on future war. As a publication translated from Russian on a topic not generally well known, this introductory chapter is of much value.

The subsequent five chapters containing the thoughts of Gareev have a strong technical foundation. It also stays merged with the political spectrum of decision making and the important role of logical relation with society. This represents an undeniable factor in understanding the origins of war and the underlying factors. The following chapter relies heavily on the military technical input which in turn underlines the Russian emphasis on military-technology and matters concerning future war. Chapter three pays particular attention to the features of future-armed struggle along the traditional lines of nuclear and conventional warfighting. Chapter four is a conceptual leap on military organisation and the debate on professional or conscript forces. Although this debate at the minimum evolves along known lines, (also from the Russian point of view) it is also discussed in terms of its utility or applicability in future. Training is the focus of the last chapter, which tends to lapse into presenting a training manual and less of an academic debate. The role of training in a future environment is a more sophisticated activity for it represents some deep or fundamental shifts from current thinking or understanding.

The chapters translated from Russian and containing the views of Gareev might be confusing to the uninformed reader. It is however of value to understand the approach by the author. The chapters move from the general to the more specific level of what future war is about, how it is foreseen to come about and how military forces in particular are to be put in place. Within this method is contained important variables that link or underlie important issues in preparing a society and the armed forces for such an environment.

The issue of future armed conflict is addressed by making use of both historic as well as contemporary developments. It draws not only upon Russian contributions, but on those of non-Russian origin as well. It also reflects a heavy emphasis on the corresponding American progress. The difficulties of the disintegration of the former Soviet Union are acknowledged, although the particular focus is modern day Russia, the particular developments in progress and those judged to be brought into the debate to facilitate how Russia is to prepare itself for fighting in a future war environment.

The contribution of the publication is that it adds much to our understanding of the origins and present dynamics of Russian military thinking and their involvement in future conflicts. This is supported by the prominent role assigned to people's qualities and the idea that the Russians should, in spite of their difficulties, in some way achieve parity with the USA - however strange this might sound. Nuclear weapons that might be viewed as obsolete from some quarters, still figure in Russian thinking whilst their refinement is deemed to keep them active well into the twentieth century. A valuable contribution is the

comparisons with external or non-Russian powers and their progress towards fighting in future armed conflicts. The publication follows a logical progression from the macro and more general environment of future armed struggle towards the lower end of the spectrum where more specific issues such as features, methods, military systems and the issues of control of the military become the focus.

The way in which the publication draws upon history and external developments erodes the particular focus on future-armed conflict and the Russian connection. Too much emphasis is placed on the US developments and their impact creating a perception of the Russian thinking being a mere reaction to the American advances. Towards the last sections of the publication the concept of future war and the Russian views are downgraded to particular personnel policies and general training rules or procedures. These micro elements could be questioned in terms of their true contribution. The particular training methods and type of training are rather to be found in a training manual than an academic publication with its focus towards conceptualising the future conflict environment.

It is acknowledged that the original publication is of Russian origin and had to be translated. In some instances the translation tends to become somewhat fuzzy. In general however the translation is not an obstacle for those interested in advancing their knowledge on Russian thinking on future warfare. It is of much interest that the object of war is not glorified, but presented as a phenomenon to be avoided. Secondly the Russian thinking is not dramatically different from US thinking and it is obvious that they have no 'surprises' or sudden breakthrough technologies that could place their opposition in jeopardy. The Russian views reflect the notion that present thinking and arsenals are an inherent part of any future ways and means to be developed.

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THE ORIGINS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR, 1899-1902

Iain R. Smith

Longman, London and New York: 1995

Pages 480

Maps

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During the last two decades, Longman has made name in the field of military history with the publication of a series of books on the origins of modern wars. In chronological order the series started with the origins of the French Revolutionary Wars and covered titles on most of the important wars since the eighteenth century, including the two World Wars, Korea, Vietnam and the Arab-Israeli Wars. The titles were not published in chronological order as the wars occurred, but at random, starting with the First World War. Just as well, as Iain Smith's book on the South African War or Second Anglo-Boer War, was published in 1996, three years before the start of the centenary festivities of this war.

Smith joined a long line of writers who tried to determine the causes of this war, which had such a decisive effect on the history of South Africa in the twentieth century. Even as the war was still in progress, writers on both sides wrote pamphlets and books to