
**Introduction**

1. War has been part of Europe for many years and has been the constant occupation of her turbulent peoples. Nevertheless, not one of them since the Thirty Years' War has been so catastrophic as the wars of the present century. Yet the reason is not to be sought in war itself, but in its conduct as related to the great revolutions since 1789: the decay of aristocracy and the advent of democracy, the developments of industry and capitalism, the emergence of the masses and of socialism, the progress of science and the advances in technology, the growth of populations and the popular press, the decay of religion and ever-advancing materialism.

2. All these vast changes have recast civilization, and had their impacts on warfare been diagnosed, and the conduct of war shaped accordingly, there is no reason why the world of today should be in its present mess.

**Review**

3. To begin with, the limited wars of absolute kings, the last of which was the Thirty Years' War, gave way to unlimited wars which was reborn out of the French Revolution. The wars of Kings were at an end; the wars of peoples were beginning. We see the emergence of a new form of civilization, the child of the mating of Rousseau's idea of the 'general will' and the energy begotten by Watt's steam engine. Its institutions are still those of the old agricultural order of society, and its activities blindly grope towards those of a new industrial one. The tensions between the two set up violent oscillations; within the nations they lead to social upheavals, and between the nations to increasing animosities.

4. 'In embryo it is to be seen in the Napoleonic Wars, and its future is predicted in two absolute theories, the one on war as expounded by Clausewitz, and the other on economics as expounded by Marx. Both are utopians, and although their premises are right, their conclusions are at fault. Clausewitz's insistence that war is a political instrument is the first of all military statecraft, but his equal insistence on the complete overthrow of the enemy vitiates the end of grand strategy, which is that a profitable peace demands not the annihilation of one's opponent, but the elimination or modification of the causes of the war. Marx was profoundly right when he insisted that, because man is a tool-using animal, the implements he fashions must necessarily influence the evolution of society, and the forms that society takes; but he was in error when he drew from this the conclusions that the forms could only be changed by means of the class struggle. While Clausewitz failed to see that peace was the ultimate aim in war, Marx failed to see that in the steam age the ultimate economic and social aims were to create an industrial society through an evolutionary and not a revolutionary process, because employers and workers are complementary and not antagonistic agents in production. Both set too much on violence which can enforce but cannot create.' p 310, 311.

5. The first of the wars of the evolving industrial civilization was the American Civil War. In greater part its origins were due to economic causes and its progress revealed the increasing dependence of armaments on industry and a decline in morality, because the old cultural ties were loosened by the amorality of advancing materialism. The war began as an urban-rural contest of factory versus plantation, and it ended by proclaiming Big Business the winner.' p 311.

6. The years which span the close of the American Civil War and the end of the century witnessed vast industrial developments both in the United States and Western Europe. Nation after nation became industrialized, and ever-increasing competition between them led to colonization on an unprecedented scale, and with it to violent international contentions. Nevertheless, to the detriment of internal tranquillity, changes in social institutions lagged behind industrial progress, and, in spite of the increased deadliness of weapons fashioned by industry, military theory remained much as it had been in the days of the muzzle-loader. Statesmen and soldiers continued to think in terms of bayonets and sabres, and it did not occur to them that in an industrial
age the factory had become the powerhouse of
the barrack, as in the agricultural age the peas-
antry was the main source of fighting power.
When toward the close of the century, oil as a
new motive power and developments in the elec-
trical sciences heralded in the second phase of
the Industrial Revolution, little attention was paid
to the radical changes they portended in the
techniques of war.' p 311.

7. 'Thus it came about that, although the causes
of the First World War were largely industrial and
commercial, in 1914 the armies of all belligerents
set out to fight the war with no clear idea of the
sort of conflict they were called upon to wage,
and only after complete stalemate had set in did
they appeal to industry and science to haul them
out of the quagmire of their stalemate. Neverthe-
less, when due to the attrition of German indus-
trial power and agricultural production by the
blockade the war collapsed, instead of the vic-
tors seeking a peace in which its economic
causes might be eliminated, they ignored then
and got back to Big Business on 1913 lines, and,
as a corollary, they returned in greater part to he
military organizations which had led to the initial
stalemate.' p 311, 312.

8. 'With the return to Big Business, the oscilla-
tions which had precipitated the war began to
repeat themselves. While in Europe the nations
were in revolutionary turmoil,' industrial concen-
tration develop in America rapidly. 'This centrali-
zation of wealth, which on the one hand in-
creased productivity and on the other failed to
build up the people's purchasing power to con-
sume it, toppled over in the financial crash of
1929, and out of its debris Big Business began to
pass into Big Government.' p 312.

9. 'In Russia this had already occurred when
Lenin's experimentations in Marxism, which
ruined production, forced him to introduce State
capitalism and his New Economic Policy, and in
Italy Mussolini had striven to build up the
people's purchasing power in his Corporate
State. Then, in 1933, both Roosevelt in America
and Hitler in Germany set out to solve the self-
same problem, the one by means of his New
Deal and the other by means of his New Order.
But none of these would-be economic messiahs
could discover how to equilibrate consumption
with production.' 'Quantity productions must rely
for its success upon quantity consumption; and
nothing ensures replacement like organized de-
struction.', p 312.

10. 'Lastly, in 1939, came the Second World
War; there were many dead but no unemployed;
consumption put the strain on production, and
the urge to destroy led to a cataract of lethal
inventions. The most outstanding were the devel-
opment of atomic energy a new source of power,
and the introduction of electronically controlled
devices out of which emerged the techniques of
automation. The purpose of the latter is progres-
ively to substitute machinery for the human brain,
as the purpose of Watt's steam engine and
Daimler's internal combustion motor was to sub-
stitute machinery for human and animal muscle.
With automation and nuclear energy the Indus-
trial Revolution entered its third phase.' p 312,
313.

11. 'Nevertheless, when in 1945 the fighting
ended with the explosion of the first atomic
bomb, the problem of peace remained unsolved,
and the state of wardom continued.' The balance
of power in Europe was wrecked and the two
economic powers, the USA and USSR, are now
to compete in a world of physical stalemate cre-
ated by nuclear weapons cold war. The basic
difference between the politics of the Democraci-
cies and Soviet Russia is their outlooks on
peace. To the one peace begins when war ends,
to the other it is a continuation of war by every
means short of actual fighting. 'The Democracies
should be aware, as Clausewitz insisted, that the
most decisive act of judgement a statesman can
exercise is rightly to understand ... the war in
which he engages'. Because the age in which
we are living is one of permanent emergency,
this is equally applicable to peace. He should
not; Clausewitz continues, 'take it for something,
or wish to make of it something, which by nature
of its relations it is impossible for it to be'. Unfor-
natley for the Free World, this is what its states-
men have consistently been doing since 1945.' p
319.

Conclusion

12. Trade has become a major weapon in the
Communist world offensive. First it was the
USSR, and now Red China has joined in an
Asian trade onslaught, intended to capture mar-
kets and, with and through them, the minds of
free men. The Communist drive is designed to
undermine the economy and strength of the free
world.

13. While the Western nations are moving away
from private enterprise toward state enterprise,
the Soviet Union is moving away from state control to a freer social order. Will these two movements converge, or will they fight each other to the death?

Brig DS Hamman


In hierdie omvattende werk word die geskiedenis van die eerste sewentig jaar van militêre geneeskunde in Suid-Afrika opgeteken en word dit toegelig deur interessante foto’s uit die argiewe.

Hierdie boek vorm deel van ‘n reeks publikasies van die Militère Informasieburo wat handel oor die militêre geskiedenis van die Suid-Afrikaanse Weermag, sy eenhede en korpses. Die belangrike rol wat die reeks in die Suid-Afrikaanse Weermag vervul, word beklemtoot deur die feit dat daar by lede van eenhede ‘n trots vir hul tradisies en prestasies deur kennis van die verlede gekweek word.

Die werk is in Afrikaans geskryf en die taalgebruik is vloeiend, korrek en verstaanbaar. Dit is boeiend aangebied alhoewel die leser toegegooi word onder ‘n magdom van feite, wat net ‘n bewys is van deeglike navorsing. Medewerkers aan MILITÈRE GENEESKUNDE IN SUID-AFRIKA (1913–1983) was genl-maj DP Kriobel, kmdt CJ Nöthling, maj AE van Jaarsveldt, kapt AM Adlam, kapt TAP du Plessis, kapt ES Smith, kapt NJ van der Hoogt, It JAJ Jordaan en Louise Brits.

Die boek belig ook ‘n interessante faset van die SAW se Geneeskundige Diens naamlik hul uitsonderlike betrokkenheid by veldtogte in die buiteland. Die betrokkenheid van die Geneeskundige Diens in die Eerste Wêreldoorlog word bespreek en daar word onder andere gekyk na hul deelname in veldtogte in Suidwes, Oos-Afrika en in Europa. So ook kom die Tweede Wêreldoorlog aan die beurt en hul betrokkenheid in lande soos Oos-Afrika, Abessinië, Italië en Madagaskar word bespreek.

Daar is ook ‘n hoofstuk oor die uniform, kentekens en vaandel van die Suid-Afrikaanse Geneeskundige Diens, sowel as ‘n baie interessante hoofstuk oor die groei en ontwikkeling van die SAGD.

Die Geneesheer-Generaal, It-genl NJ Niewoudt sê in die voorwoord tot die boek dat die Suid-Afrikaanse Geneeskundige Diens se getalle al hoe meer toeneem wat gepaard gaan met die daarstelling van nuwe formasies, eenhede, basisse en geboue. Hierdie toename dreig nou om die bydrae van die vroeëre bouers – hul kennis en rol in die ontwikkeling van die Geneeskundige Diens – verlore te laat gaan. ‘Hierdie boek verseker nou dat dit nie sal gebeur nie en dat die ontstaan en verlede van ons Diens vir die nageslag behoue sal bly.’

**MILITÈRE GENEESKUNDE IN SUID-AFRIKA (1913–1983) bevat ‘n register, terwyl die persoons- en plekname geskei word. Hierdie boek is ‘n baie volledige studie wat van groot waarde vir die historikus kan wees.**

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