

lans het in Suid-Afrika diens gedoen in Natal en Transvaal en tot Augustus 1900 diens gedoen. Die Russies-Nederlandse ambulans is te Kroonstad deur Britse troepe gevange geneem. Dr von Rennenkampf het die Boere tot Mei 1902 bygestaan en almal het daarin geslaag om heelwat Boerelewens te red.

Russiese vrywilligers het aan Boerekant geveg. Onder hulle was prinse, advokate, landmeters en onderwysers. Bekendheid het onder meer It kol Romeiko Gurko en kol Maximo verwerf. Op pp 217 – 219 verskyn die name van hierdie vrywilligers, die gewondes en die gesneuweldes, op die volgende bladsye hulle uiteenlopende ervarings en oorlogsherinneringe. Die skryfster verklaar op p 240:

'It is very gratifying for Russians to know that one of the last tasks performed by the dying President was to remember the Russian people.

The Boer struggle for independence, led by President Kruger, has left an undying memory in Russia.'

Sonder om hierdie waardevolle gedeelte van hierdie voortrefflike studie te onderskat, is hoofstuk 3, in die vorm van afbeeldings van vooraanstaande persone, en die daaropvolgende aanhangsels skat van dokumente in die Transvaalse Argief bewaarplek, Pretoria en eerbewyse in die Kultuurhistoriese Museum te Pretoria sowel as die daaropvolgende bibliografie 'n ware skatkamer van nouliks ontgonne besit wat feitlik onbekend is. Dokumente in beeld, seldsame fotomateriaal e.d.m. is tekenend vir die speursin van 'n uiters begaafde skryfster wat, met haar Russiese agtergrond, haar intieme kennis van die Russiese geskiedenis en die Russiese taal daarin geslaag het om – met as grondslag die liefde vir haar onderwerp – ons militêre geskiedenis op 'n onskatbare wyse te verryk. Dit is hier dan ook van pas om die skryfster van *Russia and the Anglo-Boer War 1899–1902* ons opregte dank te betuig vir die unieke monument wat sy eiehandig gebou en voortreflik voltooi het. Mag daar 'n groot seën op hierdie studie rus.

Kol dr Jan Ploeger

The United States in the 1980's. Editors: Peter Duigan and Alvin Rabushka. Foreward: W. Glenn Campbell. Hoover Institution, Stanford University, 1980.

The era of optimism which prevailed in the

United States since the Korean War, came to an abrupt end after the debacle in Vietnam. By the end of the Seventies the United States was no longer the dominant military power. American foreign policy lacked consistence, coherence and a strategic sense. The United States became indecisive. Under these circumstances the Soviet Union successfully enforced its imperialistic designs upon countries far from its shores.

The major problem facing the United States in the 1980's is to gauge the intentions, and strategies of the USSR. The contributors to this volume see a grand design on the part of the USSR, along with preparations for political blackmail or a nuclear war.

The United States no longer can assume technological superiority over the Soviet Union. The latter is outspending the United States in research and development of military hardware. Modern warfare is increasingly dominated by technology. The United States failed to take advantage of its technical superiority, and consequently the USSR moved ahead of the US in rocketry, nuclear submarines, and anti-satellite technology. The United States ignores biological warfare; the Soviet Union does not. Compared to the Communist country, the United States is lagging behind in civil defence, research and development. The Soviet lead endangers the entire intelligence and communications network of the United States. The USSR is also superior to the United States in the use of reconnaissance, secrecy, command flexibility, surprise, sabotage and in spreading false information.

It is, however, not only in these spheres that the United States is lagging behind. When it comes to influencing the Third World, the United States is at a distinct disadvantage. Most Third World countries are highly suspicious of the US, if not downright hostile. In the past the US neglected this part of the World in its foreign policy. The Soviet Union has not made the same mistake and consequently the United States finds itself faced with the immense task of countering the established and expanding Soviet Union influence in the Third World. It is with this in mind that American foreign policy of the 1980's will concentrate on expanding its own influence in the Third World, and blocking further Communist advances.

The importance of Africa has dawned on the Americans. The likely trouble spots for the United

States are seen as southern Africa, Zaïre and the Horn of Africa.

If the United States intends to have an effective Africa policy, its approach will have to be flexible and realistic. Previous administrations have been too inclined to structure their foreign policies in Africa to gain the approval of the Third World. This approach disregarded the realities of the present struggle between East and West. Nations are not only influenced by ideas, but also by economic factors.

Southern Africa is seen as the economic centre in Sub-Saharan Africa, with the Republic of South Africa being the dominant country. South Africa is seen as having an enormous potential and vitality.

Being one of the world's foremost mineral producers the strategic value of the Republic will increase in the next decade. It is realized that a policy of harassment towards South Africa will not have the desired effect, and should be avoided. The authors propose that the United

States rather use its diplomatic and commercial position to follow a policy of moderate persuasion designed to bring about reform in South Africa, and not a revolutionary change. There is a strong realization that if the United States insists that white South Africans surrender political power, American policy will not succeed.

Gann and Duignan propose that the American Government must recognize the diversity of South Africa's ethnic, political and economic groups. Reform in South Africa must come from within the country. To achieve this the authors feel that the United States must support the reformists within the ruling Nationalist Party, rather than the liberal or revolutionary opposition. Recognition is being taken that problems are inter-related, and that no problem can be solved in isolation.

A thought-provoking volume, 'The United States in the 1980's' identifies the solid base of strength upon which the United States intends to build during this dangerous decade.

Lt D. Conradie