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discarding anachronistic ideological baggage when required. The flux in international politics today has perhaps made the author reluctant to crystal gaze into the future except predicting continued engagement due to growing trade interdependence. Prognostications of the impact on Sino-American relations of the socio-cultural and political changes in China that can be foreseen in the years ahead, as the open economic policy demolishes rigid social and political structures, arousing latent democratic aspirations of the people and growth of the crescent of Islam on the Chinese rim, would have made interesting reading. Despite this minor shortcoming, the book is an invaluable contribution to a field of contemporary interest in international relations – the emerging Sino-US axis – and should be of considerable interest to our strategic community.

Colonel Rahul K Bhonsle

South Africa and Security Building in the Indian Ocean Rim. By Greg Mills (Johannesburg: The South African Institute of International Affairs, 1998), pp. 87, ISBN 1-874890-80-3.

The States of the Indian Ocean Rim form a collection of some of the most diverse sub regions of the world bordered by four continents represented by great cultures and religions. The Indian Ocean Rim has great economic potential, not only for the States within the area, but also for the broader international community. The Indian Ocean acts as a highway for the region and has a strategic influence over a wide area. It carries a large percentage of the global maritime trade, is used as a conduit for East-West shipping and is rich in natural resources. The potentials of Indian Ocean can only be realised if the IOR states actively work together in creating and maintaining a secure and stable environment within which multilateral trade can flourish. Dr Mill's study is an excellent summation of IOR issues, especially those that impact on security in the region. The study provides a number of policy guidelines for assessing likely success of various IOR initiatives, and for addressing regional security difficulties.

Brigadier RPS Malhan

The Third International After Lenin. By Leon Trotsky (New York: Pathfinder, 1996), pp. 380, £16.95, ISBN 0-87318-826-1.

The communist revolution of 1917 in Russia saw the system envisaged by Karl Marx coming into existence for the first time in the world. The revolution led by Lenin culminated in the workers and peasants forcefully overthrowing the feudal regime of the Czar and the government of the communist party was established. A programme for spreading communist ideals all over the world to replicate the Soviet revolution in other countries was launched under the organisation called the Communist International.

With the death of Lenin in 1924, there ensued a protracted struggle for

leadership in which the main contestants were Joseph Stalin and Leon Trotsky. Stalin who captured power in the party as well as the government, was out to suppress all traces of dissent. Trotsky had to flee the country to USA.

The Stalin-Trotsky confrontation was on ideological plane too, which surfaced in the Third Communist International in 1928. While Trotsky upheld the Marxist-Leninist ideal of need, concentrating on the work for international socialist revolution, Stalin limited the need to build socialism in the Soviet Union only and wanted the communist parties of other countries to work for defending the regime in the USSR. The book under review is Trotsky's defence of his contention. He clearly exposes the dictatorial tendencies of Stalin and the perversion of Marxist ideology in Russia.

Trotsky's exposition became prophetic when Stalin suppressed all dissent in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) and liquidated anyone whom he suspected of deviation. He turned a megalomaniac, and the dictatorial regime he established was continued by his followers who mostly ruled with the help of secret services like the KGB. It was only after Khrushchev's exposure of Stalin's atrocities, that the Russian people and the world woke up to the stark realities.

Trotsky's defence of the proletarian cause has now special significance to those who are interested in the history of the rise and fall of the Soviet Union. It also proves that dictatorships, howsoever good they be in the beginning, soon degenerate into oppressive regimes.

Subedar Major N Kunju (Retd)

The Roundtable Talks and the Breakdown of Communism. Ed by Jon Elster (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1996), pp. 247, £39.95, ISBN 0-226-20628-9.

Eastern Europe underwent a unique transition from solidly entrenched communist regimes to democratic and open socio-political systems during 1989-90. Poland, German Democratic Republic, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, each took recourse to roundtable talks between the powerful communist rulers and the reformist opposition, essentially bargaining for limited let-up from tight state-control to a diluted socialist political structure. The end results, however, were unexpected gains for democracy and a free and open society - whether in the structure of Parliament or Senate, the Presidency and its powers or a categoric transition to open society.

Dedicated studies of the preceding decade-long ferment in each of these five nations, the see-saw course of negotiations and bargaining by the two main protagonists and some side-liners, the leadership across the board and diverse socio-political strategies are projected by respective analysts and compiled in this book.