

of the history of the Israeli state to date, and of the various proposals for solving the Arab-Israeli problem, O'Brien comes to the rather depressing conclusion that none of the suggestions is realistically going to lead to a peaceful settlement. Enlarging on Moshe Dayan's aphorism that "Israel has no foreign policy, only a defence policy," O'Brien is most categorical about the impossibility of a "peace for territory" solution. The militarily unrealistic idea of Israel withdrawing to its pre-1967 boundaries is an "agreeable international pipedream." The possibility of a federation of the West Bank and Jordan is not going anywhere without East Jerusalem. As for the old Allon option of controlled settlements in the West Bank as a defensive line with military access to the Jordan river, that could never be accepted by Jordan and is no longer realistic domestically because settlements have become so widespread.

He takes a skeptical view of a comprehensive, superpower settlement. Israel, he argues, as a Zionist state and home for Jews everywhere now "cannot be other than it is," and the Muslim world is not free to be other than what it is. "It seems to follow that the siege will continue, in some form, into the indefinite future." As for the Palestinians, he argues, their best hope for the future is not in territory but in a "tacit condominium" between Israel and West Bankers, buttressed by some tacit accommodation with Syria over Lebanon. His assessment won't please activists on either side. But his lucidity and fairness are very welcome. — *John R. Walker*

Mr. Walker writes a weekly column on international affairs for Southam News.

Women in War: From World War II to El Salvador Shelley Saywell

Toronto: Penguin Books 1986, 324 pgs. \$9.95 paper

■ Saywell is a Toronto-based television producer whose previous credits include *The Ten Thousand Day War*, a documentary series about the war in Vietnam. Her account of womens' experiences in war is written in the

straight-forward and dramatic style of a documentary. Saywell spares the reader any tiresome soliloquies about the evils of war, instead she permits the women she interviewed to speak for themselves.

They range from aging Warsaw and Paris housewives who at the age of nineteen or twenty took part in resistance attacks against the Nazis, to present-day guerilla fighters in El Salvador. Whether they were fighting for the 'glory' of Britain or simply for survival, each woman felt at the time that she had no choice. "They say that women have babies, and so don't kill. I was very young and very determined . . . I never asked myself if the soldier or SS man I killed had a wife or children." (Marisa Musu, member of the Gappisti resistance in Rome)

Memories of intense friendship and loyalty forged in the battlefield are juxtaposed with stark accounts of rape and deprivation suffered by female POWs. Although women felt generally equal to men in battle, they felt that equal status in war did little to raise their status in civilian life. According to a British pilot in WWII, "You could say that the forgotten army was not the one in Burma, but the one in skirts."

Nearly every woman emerged from war bruised and embittered, but most said they would do it again in defence of their homeland. If their stories dispel the myth that women are less violent by nature than men, they reinforce the fact that war brings out the best and the worst in humanity generally. "War changed me. You cannot go through that and come back the same. I've been to a place where nothing is sacred except what you have inside. What keeps you going is that little inner part that you own and that is really all you do own . . ." (Lynn Bower, Vietnam veteran) — *Elizabeth Richards*

Women Against War

Compiled by Women's Division of Soka Gakkai Translated by Richard L. Gage

Tokyo: Kodansha International 1986, 247 pgs. US \$17.95

■ Forty testimonials were drawn from a collection of twelve volumes published in Japanese by women of the Soka Gakkai, a

Buddhist organization that advocates the abolition of nuclear weapons. Unlike the subjects of Saywell's book, these women did not fight. They were civilians caught first by the loss of loved ones to a war they barely understood, and finally by the poverty of post-war Japan and the indignities of defeat.

Japanese women were not permitted to enter University until after the war, and because of this, most of the women who recount their experiences are uneducated. The collective result is a simple, unembellished, and poignant story told straight from the heart. And unlike Saywell's subjects, these women have nothing positive to say about war. Victims of radiation sickness relate their slow awakening to the fact that, for them, WWII never ended. — *Elizabeth Richards*

NATO and the Defense of the West

Laurence Martin

New York: Holt, Rinehart & Winston, 1985, 159 pgs. US \$18.95 cloth

■ This book was published before the current flurry of arms control activity over Europe-based nuclear weapons; however, far from making its analysis out of date, the combination of text and illustration assembled in these few pages is more useful than ever. With the prospect of a Europe free of particular kinds of nuclear weapons the attention of many in the West has shifted to conventional forces. Can they do the job? Can Western Europe be defended without nuclear weapons?

Laurence Martin is a leading British defence analyst, but this book is not at the cutting edge of academic reflection. It is instead a basic walk through the elements that make up the military forces which confront each other in Europe. As such it should be extremely useful to the non-expert interested in understanding just what all those tanks and soldiers are doing in Europe, and how their owners think they might get used. Martin does not examine motives for starting WW III in Europe, he just looks at how the soldiers and their masters say they will fight war there if it comes.

Examples of chapter headings give a feel for the style: "Early Evolution of NATO Strategy" — "The Maritime Battle" — "Air Power in the Land Battle" — "Command Structure of NATO" — "...of the Warsaw Pact." The illustrations are clear and informative, and deal with everything from how a tank shell penetrates armour to the stages of authorization NATO military commanders would go through if they wanted to use nuclear weapons in battle. (The caption for this complex multi-coloured flowchart states wryly that NATO's nuclear release system is "possibly unworkable.")

The only obvious drawback to the book (especially for students and other newcomers to the field) is that the vision presented is entirely too sanitized. A modern conventional war fought in Europe would be an unimaginably ghastly business for the soldiers — not to mention hapless civilians. The air would be filled with flying metal and poison gas, the soldiers would be stuck inside tanks and bunkers, the battle would be fought around the clock in "continuous operations" consuming large amounts of equipment and a great many lives. Martin's readers would have been even better served if the precise cutaway tank diagrams and neat illustrations of armour penetrators had been accompanied by some description of what those penetrators are designed to do to the people stuck inside. — *Michael Bryans*

BRIEFLY NOTED

No Other Way: Canada and International Security Institutions John W. Holmes *et al.*

Toronto: University of Toronto, Centre for International Studies, 1986, 155 pgs. \$10.95 paper

A collection of essays on the Canada's role in international institutions such as the UN Security Council and NATO, this volume is the product of a conference of some seventy academics and officials held in Toronto in June 1984. □

Reviews of French language publications can be found in *Paix et Sécurité* 'Livres' section.