12 Books on the Pacific Area

[Alumni Reading Guide]
Compiled by the School of Library Science

JAPAN UNMASKED, by Hal lattice Abbot. New York, New York Times correspondent learned and saw in 1940 when he visited the Philippine Islands, Singapore, the Dutch East Indies, and other strategic points of the present Far Eastern crisis. Just how important these islands are to the outcome of the present war is shown. Having spent many years in the Far East, he writes intimately and with authority of what Japan is doing in China to effect an economy closed to all foreign countries and dominated by herself. His book is both illuminating and alarming, showing the extent and ruthlessness of Japanese ambitions, and the serious position of the United States.”—Booklist.

HAWAII: RESTLESS RAMPSAY, by Joseph Bar- ber, Jr. New York, Bobbs-Merrill, 1941. $2.75. “Without sensationalism the author writes of conditions in the Hawaiian Islands, now of vital concern to the United States as a focus of defense in the Pacific. Business is controlled by interlocking monopolies, the Japanese population presents acute difficulties, and a possible menace, and the relations of all islands who are a source of friction. This is an exposé that reveals the working of an economic and political setup that has been usually successful in controlling publicity; it is an objective study of the Hawaiians that lies behind what the tourist sees, supporting the author's opinion that, It's time the spotlight was turned on Hawaii, U. S. A.”—Booklist.

AMERICA PREPARES FOR TOMORROW; THE STORY OF OUR TOTAL DEFENSE EFFORT, by William Dow Boutwell. New York, Harper, 1941. Trade edition, $3.50; school edition, $2.65. “An attempt to inform the citizen of what his government and his fellow citizens are doing in the utilization of resources and man power for defense. Descriptive rather than critical, it should be widely useful. Partial contents: The Emergency national defense organization—The President and his emergency powers—The farmers are prepared—Roofs for defense?—Our army to day—Young men and selective service—Civil defense; what can you do—Sitting on the price list—Education responds—Women in national defense.”—Booklist.

AMERICAN POLYNESIA; CORAL ISLANDS OF THE CENTRAL PACIFIC, by Edwin Horace Bryan. Honolulu, 1911-117 Smith St., Tongg Publishing Company, 1941. $1.50. “A group of small islands lying between Hawaii and Samoa have assumed a new significance as naval and military landing places or observation stations. After preliminary chapters on the climate, physiography, and botany, the author describes one by one more than 30 of these islands, and gives their history, with a small map of each island.”—Booklist.

WAR AND DIPLOMACY IN EASTERN ASIA, by Claude Albert Buss. New York, Macmillan, 1941. $5.00. “An analysis of the present chaotic economic and political conditions in the Far East, a review of their causes, and an attempt to apportion praise and blame—a sizable share of both parks indiscriminately on everybody's national doorstep. The author is professor of international relations at the University of Southern California and executive assistant to the High Commissioner of the Philippine Islands.”—Book Review Digest.

VOLCANIC ISLE, by Wilfrid Fleisher. New York, Doubleday, 1941. $3.00. “An account of political conditions in Japan during recent years, with sketches of leading Japanese officials. The author, after several years' residence in Japan as editor of a Tokyo newspaper, concludes that that country is vulnerable now and that appeasement is no longer advisable.”—Booklist.

THE AMERICAN EMPIRE: A STUDY OF THE OUTLYING TERRITORIES OF THE UNITED STATES, by William Herman Hatt. Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1940. $1.00. “The resources, opportunities, people, geographical background, economics, and special problems of territories acquired by the United States are well summarized in a readable manner. Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Panama Canal Zone, Hawaii and the Philippines are discussed in separate chapters by various contributors whose aim is to increase the readers understanding of these areas.”—Booklist.

HONORABLE ENEMY, by Ernest O. Hauser. New York, Duell, Sloan & Pearce, 1941. $2.50, “An explanation of the Japanese national character by the author of Shogun. He sees the typical Japanese as an Oriental who still feels in spite of a superficial assimilation of western industrialization, and is conditioned by a scarcity economy. He is not pro-Japanese, but some of his generalizations have been questioned.”—Booklist.

ORPHANS OF THE PACIFIC; THE PHILIPPINES, by Florence Horn. New York, Reynal, 1941. $3.50. “Study of conditions in the Philippine Islands, describing the people, their customs, economic and social conditions, their internal problems, and their leadership. The author, an American woman, insists that it is time the United States gave their attention to the Philippine question, since they are slated to have their independence in 1946, and because Japan is an important consideration in any such move.”—Book Review Digest.

ARMED FORCES OF THE PACIFIC; A COMPARISON OF THE MILITARY AND NAVAL POWER OF THE UNITED STATES AND JAPAN, by William Dilworth Pulerton. New Haven, Yale University Press, 1941. $2.75. “This is a book which deserves a wide and attentive audience at a moment when the country is confronted with momentous decisions. We may find our major attention absorbed by our Atlantic problems, but that does not mean that we have abandoned our Pacific difficulties; they are still there and must not be forgotten. Capt. Pulerton not only describes our military and naval assets, he offers constructive solutions which merit the careful study of the citizens of our Republic on whom, in the last analysis, rests the responsibility for our present and future security.”—Book Review Digest.


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