

The Strategic Metals War: The Current Crisis and Your Investment Opportunities. James E. Sinclair, Robert Parker. *Crown*, \$17.50. Yet another book that offers dire warnings of an impending resource shortage—and then gleefully tells you how to make a bundle off it. This time the subject is strategic metals such as manganese, vanadium, and chrome. Since only a few countries have such minerals, notably the Soviet Union and South Africa, the United States is highly vulnerable to any sudden reduction of supply.

So on one hand the authors endorse various means to head off this crisis: building up our strategic stockpiles, relaxing mining restrictions in the United States, smoothing relations with South Africa, unilaterally declaring that American firms have a right to mine the seabeds. But what happens if these suggestions are followed, and the much-vaunted crisis is thwarted? Those much-vaunted investment opportunities vanish. This explains why the part of the book written with the deepest feeling is the one

that offers the most lucrative possibilities for would-be investors: increased aggressiveness by the Soviet Union, continued escalation in U.S. defense spending, and political instability in South Africa.

—*Thomas Freedman*

Thinking about National Security: Defense and Foreign Policy in a Dangerous World. Harold Brown. *Westview/Hearst*, \$17.95. Jimmy Carter's former defense secretary has produced a reasonable, intelligent, and passionless tour of foreign policy, military, and arms control issues. He sketches out once again the major differences between the Carter and Reagan defense policies, and while he certainly knows his subject far more intimately than Weinberger or Reagan, he often ends up with similar conclusions. The book is a constant reminder of the narrow consensus that prevails on national security policies.

Brown does offer a few good suggestions—for example, the replacement of the Joint Chiefs of Staff with a unified general staff that would be less prone to inter-service rivalries. But those looking for a memoir will be disappointed; the names Carter and Reagan appear rarely; Brzezinski, Vance, Weinberger, and Haig not at all. This is unfortunate, for it often makes Brown's book read like a *Foreign Affairs* article written by a twice-a-year visitor to Washington rather than a veteran of two decades of bureaucratic wars at the highest levels of government.

—*Ronald Brownstein*

The Way the World Works: How Economies Fail and Succeed. Jude Wanniski. *Simon & Schuster*, \$34.50/\$5.95.

U.S.S.R. in Crisis. Marshall I. Goldman. *Norton*, \$15. In spite of rhetoric that alternates between leaving the the Russians "on the ash heap of history" and expressions of hope about Yuri Andropov because of his musical and literary tastes, Goldman's book on the problems of the Soviet economy is refreshing. The organized planning model made dogma by Stalin has proved a straightjacket, Goldman observes, and not only is Soviet industry captive to "gigantomani-

a"—stressing quantity of goods rather than needs and quality—but the communists have been in power for so long that the Soviet people are utterly disoriented when they are forced to make their own economic decisions. Bureaucratic turf protection and the Kremlin's fear of a Soviet version of Solidarity make fundamental changes unlikely—which should work to our benefit, assuming we learn how to reform our own obsolete and poorly run industries.

—*Charlie Euchner*

What about the Russians and Nuclear War? Ground Zero Project. *Pocket Books*, \$47.40.

Working Together. John Simmons, William Mares. *Knopf*, \$15.95. At a time when factories are closing and corporate profits are dropping, Simmons and Mares present a convincing, if somewhat optimistic, case that workplace democracy can boost American productivity. They tell American management what Japanese management has long known: soliciting worker input can be profitable. ("American managers tend to be too authoritarian," as one astute Japanese businessman observed.) They also remind skeptical union leaders that employee ownership and/or participation can stave off plant closings.

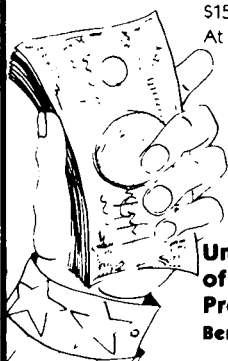
Drawing on interviews with both labor and management, the authors describe the troubles and successes of dozens of worker participation plans, from GM's Chevrolet Gear and Axle Plant in Detroit to the small Donnelly Mirrors in Holland, Michigan. Despite the authors' jubilation over these programs, it should be kept in mind that current forms of worker participation are hardly radical—they give workers input over daily production problems and personnel decisions but generally not whether management should use the company's tax savings to buy up department stores or to upgrade their plants. Still, if the trends the authors cite persist, "Quality of work-life" programs that increase worker participation may become one of the private sector's mantras in the eighties.

—*Nina Easton*

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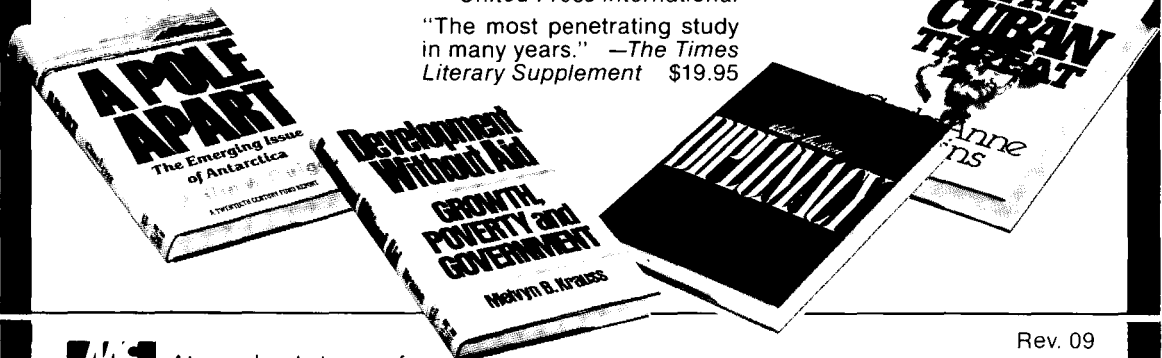
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