

international arena. The fundamental principles of democracy — freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of movement — were weaknesses that were easily taken advantage of by the communist insurgents. The U.S. seemed to be supporting this weakness of democracy without materially supporting the government.

This book is a remarkable collection of writings and interviews, but the authors provide little analysis of the material they present. This makes it valuable to researchers who may be looking for different points of view, but the lack of analysis or conclusions makes it unsuitable as a primer on El Salvador. While the book is interesting for someone who knows about the country and the "key players," it would be hard for the general reader to follow.

The type of war that is being fought in El Salvador is often referred to as a "people's" war. The description of the environment by people in high places sometimes differs from the reality at the lower levels. The interviews and writings contained in this oral history represent "key" people. An important element is missing — the thoughts and perceptions of local political officials, junior officers, laborers, farmers and the U.S. officials, military and civilian, who lived and worked in the countryside. Without the viewpoint of the people, the vision is unclear — a point which may be applied equally to this book and to the problems with U.S. policies in Central America.

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Low Intensity Conflict and Modern Technology. Edited by Lt. Col. David J. Dean, USAF. Maxwell AFB, Ala.: Air University Press, 1986. 381 pages.

It is difficult to review books with 24 contributing writers. Since it is impossible to review each piece in-

dividually, this review will attempt to sum up the whole.

In this book, most of the contributors do a bang-up job of adding to our knowledge concerning low-intensity conflict. In general, they agree on several points: that LIC is often misunderstood; that it defies easy definition because it is an umbrella concept and not a tactic; that it is not a wholly military enterprise, in fact, political, psychological and economic concerns may well outweigh military involvement and should; and that it is seemingly impossible for the military to get a grip on LIC because we as a nation lack a well-defined national strategy for dealing with it.

Dr. Sam Sarkesian in his piece, "Low Intensity Conflict: Concepts, Principles and Policy Guidelines," does a masterful job of outlining the problem. Questions abound — who has the lead in LIC, DoD or State? In the case of an undeclared war, which is what LIC is by some definitions, how will the War Powers Act affect presidential decision making? What will be the role of the U. S. Special Operations Command? There are other questions, many of which defy answers due to congressional and DoD wrangling over proper roles and guidelines.

The only flaw in the book is in its

title, which could be misleading. Although there are excellent pieces which are technology-rich, there are a number of interesting articles in the first and third sections which deal with LIC policy and doctrine, respectively.

Although one can take issue with any one of the contributors, overall, their arguments are well thought-out and well-supported. Since LIC is not easily defined, it is difficult to condemn those who see it differently.

Low Intensity Conflict and Modern Technology is, on the whole, an enjoyable and informative book, a good piece of work by the contributors and the editor. It is highly recommended.

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Low-intensity Conflict in the Third World. Edited by Lewis B. Ware. Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.: Air University Press, 1988. 178 pages.

Low Intensity Conflict in the Third World is not the one definitive book on this critically important subject that one might infer from the title. It is, however, an excellent place to begin a look into the area. The collective authors of the six articles that make up the book have all done a fine job with their topics, and for the serious reader, it is well worth the time needed to read it effectively. It is short (only 178 pages with notes), but it is packed with hard facts and excellent analysis.

The organization is disarmingly simple, given the complexity of the issues with which the book deals. The first five chapters address the five major geographic regions that make up the Third World and deal with LIC in each one. These areas are: the Middle East, Latin America, Southern Africa, Southeast Asia, and Central Asia and the Soviet involvements therein. The final chapter attempts to offer advice to U.S. policy

