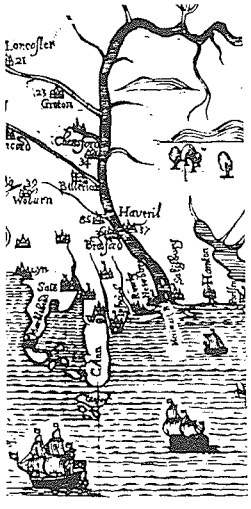
THE MAPPING OF AMERICA
by Seymour I. Schwartz and Ralph Ehrenberg
Abrams, 1980
363 pp. $60



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Through maps, and maps alone, the vast geographical expanses of North America have acquired the shapes—sometimes erroneous—by which they have been known. America, once little more than a figment of the European imagination, loomed, at the dawn of the Age of Discovery, as a novel "fourth part" of the Earth—outside the traditional three-part *orbis* (Europe, Africa, Asia). Thus illegitimate, it proved highly malleable. Regarding it as an obstacle to Cathay, European map makers narrowed the New World or spilled bodies of water across it. Others filled its expanse with conjectural El Dorados. This generously illustrated volume presents a comprehensive history of the topographic renderings of America up through the Space Age. Indigenous map making antedated the Revolution but was strongly encouraged by the new American government's efforts to survey what it had won—efforts spurred on by the desire to find a waterway to the Pacific. By the mid-19th century, improved surveying and new methods for mass-producing maps eliminated the most egregious geographical misconceptions. They also reduced the human, expressive quality of maps. One exception, the panoramic, bird's-eye-view map, developed after the Civil War, proved to be an evocative document, providing people with a vivid sense of where they lived. Now, however, computer-generated satellite maps threaten to make these documents obsolete.

—Alan K. Henrikson ('79)

DIPLOMACY OF POWER: Soviet Armed Forces as a Political Instrument
by Stephen S. Kaplan
Brookings, 1981, 733 pp.
$29.95 cloth, $14.95 paper

Neither Lenin nor his successors appear to have forgotten Carl von Clausewitz's classic definition of military force and war: the continuation of politics by other means. Given the many applications of this principle in modern times, there has been relatively little serious analysis of U.S. and Soviet uses of force to achieve political ends. Kaplan, who, with Barry Blechman, examined the U.S. record in *Force Without War* (1978), now considers the Soviet example. The resulting work —including eight case studies by contribut-

ing scholars—presents a balanced view, neither alarmist nor complacent about Soviet intentions and practices. All told, there were more than 190 Soviet military actions between 1944 and 1979 (e.g., Hungary in 1956, Czechoslovakia in 1968, West African waters in 1969 and 1970). Kaplan concludes that a steady erosion, relatively speaking, of U.S. military power (and the will to use it) will only encourage Soviet boldness. Moscow grows more willing to take risks as it perceives the advantage shifting its way, and token U.S. gestures, such as dispatching task forces to trouble spots, will be perceived by the Soviets as bluffs—increasingly likely to be called.

—Anthony H. Cordesman

CHINA'S SOCIALIST ECONOMY
by Xue Muqiao
Foreign Languages Press, 1981, 316 pp. $8

In China, "six times more workers are needed in light industry and 11 times more in heavy industry to produce the same quantities of goods as in developed capitalist countries," laments Xue, perhaps China's most prominent economic theorist. In the most comprehensive insider's interpretation of the PRC economy available in English, Xue analyzes both how the system works and the ideas that have shaped China's present goals—the Four Modernizations. Although the communists have been relatively successful at development since they took power in 1949, China has not achieved what it should, he argues. Xue cites two culprits—the over-centralized Stalinist economic model adopted during the 1950s and Mao's disruptive politics of mass-mobilization. Mao is now gone, and the new leadership, under Deng Xiaoping, has written his official epitaph (a 35,000-word evaluation published last July) in an attempt to chart a new political direction. Xue focuses on reforming the Stalinist command-economy system. His solution: direct material incentives for workers and peasants, some decentralization of decision-making, and use of economic rather than administrative prods to the economy (e.g., pricing rather than output quotas); in short, "market socialism."

—Peter Van Ness ('74)