
NEW TITLES

History
**SLAVE SOLDIERS
AND ISLAM:
The Genesis of a Military
System**

by Daniel Pipes
Yale, 1981
246 pp. \$25

From religious ideals sometimes flow unexpected consequences. One product of Islam, asserts Pipes, a University of Chicago historian, was a unique system of military slavery. Both outside Islam and in the pre-Islamic Middle East, slave warriors were used only occasionally and haphazardly. But between the ninth and 19th centuries, 80 percent of all Muslim dynasties relied heavily on them. Posing two questions—why did military slavery occur only in the Islamic world, and why did it work?—Pipes finds the answers in the teachings of Islam. Muslims subscribed to the ideal of a community of believers united under one leader and waging war only against infidels; the reality was frequent conflict among coreligionists. Still, so many Muslims cleaved to the “pious fiction” of their faith that warring Muslim rulers were forced to look elsewhere for manpower. Children from beyond their borders (e.g., black Africa) were purchased, converted, and trained for combat. Guaranteed dignity by the Koran, which describes slaves as inferior on Earth but equal before God, these soldiers enjoyed remarkably high status. Koranic inheritance laws that diffused wealth helped clear their path to positions of authority and power. Though deeply loyal to their first owners, slave soldiers often overthrew their masters’ successors. In all, more than 50 became rulers—emirs and sultans—in the Islamic world.

**DONOVAN AND THE CIA:
A History of the
Establishment of the
Central Intelligence Agency**

by Thomas F. Troy
CIA, 1981
589 pp. gratis

The Central Intelligence Agency has just declassified—by deleting only six typewritten pages of material—the official history of its genesis. Despite its title, the volume deals less with William J. (“Wild Bill”) Donovan, a successful lawyer who became the first intelligence chief, than with the interdepartmental rivalries surrounding the creation of the

agency. When a Budget Bureau order established the Coordinator of Information in early 1941, the question immediately arose: To whom should the coordinator report? During World War II, Army intelligence (G-2) resented the semi-autonomy of Donovan's new Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and was jealous of its direct access to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the President. FBI chief J. Edgar Hoover urged that OSS responsibilities be handed over to his agency after the war. And, in fact, the OSS was abolished in 1945 by Truman. Then, almost immediately, the State Department set up its own intelligence office, and the bickering resumed. Ensuing rounds of political wrangling were brought to an end in 1947, when Truman signed the National Security Act. With this legislation, writes Troy, a "company" man himself, the country "officially, albeit tacitly, authorized the conduct of peacetime espionage and counterespionage." It also created an independent intelligence agency—the CIA—that would report directly to the President but not encroach upon intelligence activities of other departments.

**EISENHOWER'S
LIEUTENANTS:
The Campaigns of France
and Germany, 1944–1945**
by Russell F. Weigley
Ind. Univ., 1981
800 pp. \$22.50

Against the Nazis, the U.S. Army failed to combine effectively what had served it well in previous wars: mobility and concentration of force. In mid-1944, the German Army, bled by the Soviet onslaught in the East, found itself increasingly short of petroleum, munitions, and air support. Yet it would take the Allies almost a year to clinch victory. Why? In Weigley's view, Eisenhower and his chief lieutenants (Generals Omar Bradley, Lesley McNair, George Patton, et al.) lacked a clear conception of war. From D-Day until victory in May 1945, U.S. strategy (which dominated Allied efforts) aimed at overwhelming the war-weary *Wehrmacht* across a broad front—with forces more appropriate for mobile operations. Time was lost, men and lives were squandered, and the Soviet area of domination inched westward. Weigley, a Temple University historian, praises a few innovative