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Middleton: THE STRUGGLE FOR GERMANY

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RECENT BOOKS

This department undertakes to note or review briefly current books on law and materials closely related thereto. Periodicals, court reports, and other publications that appear at frequent intervals are not included. The information given in the notes is derived from inspection of the books, publishers' literature, and the ordinary library sources.

BRIEF REVIEWS

THE STRUGGLE FOR GERMANY. By *Drew Middleton*. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill. 1949. Pp. 304. \$3.

The author has stated that the purpose of his book is to demonstrate the importance of Germany in American foreign policy. He achieves this by reporting facts the significance of which cannot be ignored. Mr. Middleton has been in Europe since 1945 as chief correspondent for the *New York Times* in the U.S.S.R. and in Germany. Both his training and his experience qualify him as a reliable observer. The reader is oriented by a report of facts calculated to make him realize the actual condition of Germany when the four occupying powers took over in 1945. Mr. Middleton then analyzes at length the policies which have been pursued by those powers from that time to date, showing how the policies of each were developed, what their objectives have been, and what they have accomplished. It should be noted that while his reporting is objective throughout, the author does not neglect to call attention to events that have been particularly important, nor to state conclusions warranted by an intelligent appraisal of the facts. For example, there is found in a probable decision of the Soviet Political Bureau in 1945, to resume stress on the revolutionary and destructive elements of the Marxist philosophy, the turning point in Russian policy and the beginning of the cold war. That policy has largely failed to gain its objectives; while United States policy, since it began to be formulated in a positive manner in 1947, has at least achieved some success. An examination is then made of conditions in Germany at the present time, showing the differences in living conditions, social and economic standards, and the attitudes of the people in the eastern and western zones of Germany. The activities of German political parties in both zones are discussed and the author notes the revival of nationalism. He reports that the people are willing to sacrifice civil liberties for economic security and express a preference for an authoritarian form of government. It is apparent that the western powers must integrate the new Germany into a western European association and must educate the German people to democracy; the magnitude of these tasks must not be allowed to discourage their accomplishment. Mr. Middleton concludes with suggestions as to what must be done to achieve these purposes and stresses again that the consequences of failure will mean the loss of Germany and its people to Russia, possibly resulting in disaster for the democratic world.