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PUBLIC OPINION AND FOREIGN POLICY. Edited by *Lester Markel*. New York: Harper & Brothers. 1949. Pp. xii, 227. \$3.50.

This book is part of the considerable contribution to the literature of foreign affairs by the Council on Foreign Relations. Containing articles by eight specialists in various fields of public opinion and foreign affairs, the book is coordinated and edited by Lester Markel, the Sunday editor of the *New York Times*. Despite individual authorship of the separate chapters, this is not a symposium but a well integrated development of various factors that tend to form public opinion. Each discussion considers the importance of public opinion, the institutions that help to form opinion, and the proper function of those institutions. Opinion is initially classified as foreign and domestic, and the problems are treated separately. Recognizing that in a democracy foreign policy is ultimately controlled by domestic public opinion, it is found that such opinion is alarmingly uninformed. The authors appraise the function of the President, Congress, the military and the State Department in the transmission of information of foreign policy to the people. The inefficient use of public opinion is the subject of penetrating study, along with the conflicting needs for security and information. While the function of government at home is to inform, the function abroad is to persuade. The development of foreign opinion by the United States is considered from the standpoint of the government information services, the private press and the movies. Foreign opinion is evaluated and Communist propaganda analyzed. Although this brief study seems less than an answer to the many problems it raises, it makes an effective plea for enlightened public opinion and should stimulate serious consideration of the effectiveness of American use of public opinion as an instrument of foreign policy.