

Book Reviews

Terrorism is not a football game

by Carol White

Patriot Games

by Tom Clancy
G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York
540 pages, hardcover, \$19.95.

Some time ago, while flipping through the pages of the *Wall Street Journal*, I came upon a glowing review of this book. It appeared on the Op Ed page of the *Journal*, and most surprisingly, was by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger. Well, if he found it a "good read," that was a good enough

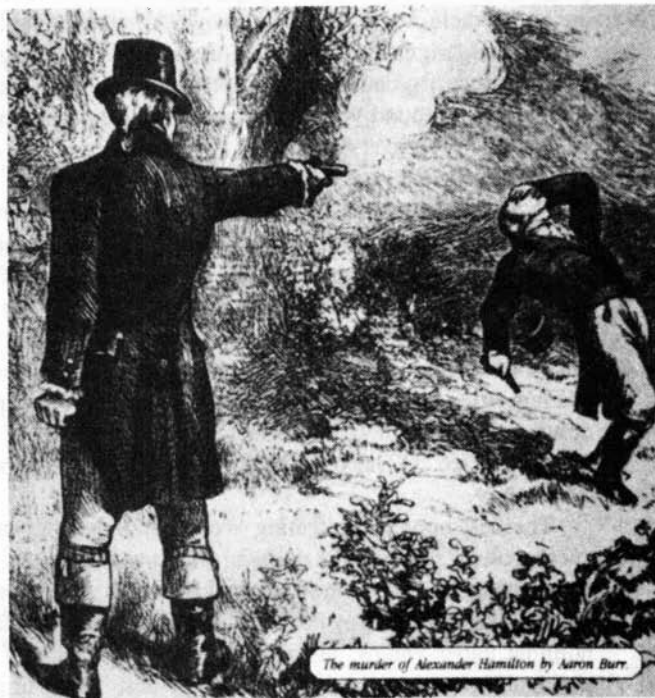
reason for me to reserve it at my local library branch, especially as the author's first book, *Red October*, was an extremely interesting look at submarine warfare.

The plot line of the book is adequately summarized on its jacket. It goes like this: ". . . CIA analyst Jack Ryan is vacationing in London with his wife and young daughter, when a terrorist attack takes place before his eyes. Instinctively, he dives forward to break it up, and is shot. It is not until he wakes up in the hospital that he learns whose lives he has saved—the Prince and Princess of Wales and their new young son—and which enemies he has made—the Ulster Liberation Army, an ultra-left wing splinter of the IRA."

The action centers around the terrorists' attempts to get at the Royal Family, coupled with their attacks on Ryan's own family, and how these are foiled. The book is certainly lively, but its major premise is seriously flawed. Why then did Secretary Weinberger find it worthy of review?

The book has little to say of interest about terrorist activity itself, although it implies that all terrorism is a sociological phenomenon. While the terrorists get military training in Libyan camps, it is implied that the various grouplets function independently. The reality of how terrorist groups are utilized by the Soviets as an irregular-warfare extension of their military capabilities is not even suggested; nor is the fact that the U.S. intelligence community also runs various

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“radical organizations” or penetrates them, for its own purposes.

The title of the book, *Patriot Games*, is not satirical, as this concluding passage makes clear. Prince Charles and Ryan are discussing terrorism, having just subdued the terrorists. The Prince says: “I wanted to ask them why. . . .”

Ryan answers: “I guess maybe it comes down to justice. If people believe in their society, they don’t break its rules. The trick’s making them believe. Hell, we can’t always accomplish that, but you try your best, and you don’t quit.”

In a period, such as the present one, when it is becoming increasingly apparent that the rules of the game don’t work, this is a pretty pathetic solution. As the stock market crash shows, reality will assert itself in the end. The decline of the U.S. economy will not be reversed by encouraging more “belief” in the magic of the market place. What is needed is a program for reindustrialization that will encourage high-technology investment. As the title of the book suggests, intelligence is presented as the “Great Game.” One might almost suppose that it is a deliberate counter thesis to the book, *Irregular Warfare*, by Brig. Gen. F.A. von der Heydte, first published in English in 1986 by *EIR*.

I found the sanctimonious tone of the book to be extremely distasteful. Everyone is represented as a bit too conscience-stricken about violating the niceties of law, while combatting their ruthless terrorist opponents. Our hero ponders whether fighting the terrorists will corrupt our democratic system. Well and good, if that were really a picture of our society, or even of how the CIA operates. But as one who has suffered the abuses of our judicial system—the illegal seizure of the magazine *Fusion*, which I edited, and the merciless legal harassment of my colleagues and associates, not least Lyndon LaRouche—the picture does not ring true.

Lastly, I wonder what possessed Clancy to choose Prince Charles as his subject. Certainly, in view of the present vicissitudes of the royal marriage, the portrait of the ideal family hardly rings true. It is interesting that our author is at pains to show the Prince as a “real man”—indeed, something of a hero himself.

No one who depended upon the book for an inside view of how the Royal Family really lives, would suppose that the Royal Family is under attack in England for lacking just those qualities which Clancy attributes to them. It is not just a question of the Prince’s former valet dying of AIDS, or that the Prince himself talks to vegetables, or that Soviet asset Armand Hammer is his mentor; nor is it a question of the high-living Princess. But surely, every insider knows that the same military intelligence circles represented in the book are highly dissatisfied with the prospect of the heir-apparent becoming King.

Indeed, the book appears to be a call for a reorganization of the Anglo-Saxon intelligence services around the person of Prince Charles. I guess the most interesting thing about this book is, why did Caspar Weinberger give it such a favorable review?

Books Received

Space and National Security, by Paul Stares. The Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C., 1987. \$28.95 hardbound, \$10.95 paperbound, 219 pages.

Looking Forward: An Autobiography, by George Bush with Victor Gold. Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, N.Y., 1987. \$18.95 hardbound, 269 pages.

James Madison: The Founding Father, by Robert A. Rutland. MacMillan Publishing Co., N.Y., 1987. \$19.95 hardbound, 287 pages.

The Pride and the Fall: The Dream and Illusion of Britain as a Great Nation, by Correlli Barnett. The Free Press, N.Y., 1987. \$22.95 hardbound, 359 pages.

The Golden Guru: The Strange Journey of Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, by James S. Gordon. The Stephen Greene Press, Lexington, Mass., 1987. \$19.95 hardbound, 248 pages.

Stay Alive, My Son: The Gripping, True Story of One Man’s Courageous Escape from the Terror of Cambodia’s Khmer Rouge, by Pin Yathay. The Free Press, N.Y., 1987. \$19.95 hardbound, 240 pages.

Kelley: The Story of an F.B.I. Director, by Clarence Kelley and James Kirkpatrick Davis. Andrew, McMeel and Parker, Kansas City, Mo., 1987. \$17.95 hardbound, 326 pages.

The Crimes of Patriots: A True Tale of Dope, Dirty Money and the CIA, by Jonathan Kwitny. W.W. Norton and Co., N.Y., 1987. \$19.95 hardbound, 424 pages.

The Collapse of the Weimar Republic: Political Economy and Crisis, by David Abraham. Holmes and Meier, N.Y., 1986. \$45 hardbound, \$17.50 paperbound, 352 pages.

Katharine the Great: Katharine Graham and the Washington Post, by Deborah Davis. National Press Inc., Bethesda, Md., 1979, 1987. \$17.95 hardbound, 320 pages.

Very Special Relationship: Field Marshal Sir John Dill and the Anglo-American Alliance 1941-1944, by Alex Danchev. Brassey’s Defence Publishers, Ltd., London, England (a member of the Pergamon Group) 1986. \$26 hardbound, 201 pages.

Once They Were Eagles: The Men of the Black Sheep Squadron, by Frank E. Walton. The University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, Ky., 1986. \$24 hardbound, 213 pages.