

pulling the strings—The KGB which, since its founding by Dzerzhinsky under the name of Cheka, has remained the major builder and guardian of the Soviet Union as a world power.

We must not forget that Gorbachov is the protégé of the KGB and that the whole apparatus of this super-political police stand behind perestroika. How can one believe in the sincerity of transformations of Marxist-Leninist totalitarianism toward an authentic democracy without the removal and suppression of its major support, the KGB?

The Communist Parties are crumbling to dust in the East bloc. But on the contrary, the secret police, the KGB's subsidiaries—although this is well dissimulated in Western media and public opinion—remain intact. The nationalities problems, an untreated sore since 1920, and even earlier, are very adroitly utilized by perestroika, and hence by the KGB. Certain events are provoked which tear open the tender scars and cause the unhealed, merely disguised, sores to appear.

The KGB is trying to draw on the sympathies of the great Western powers by its policy of perestroika, which is nothing but a ruse to obtain the maximum support from the peoples of the free world, and this support must not be only political and mediating, but also economic and technological, which is what the Soviet Union today needs so badly.

In ripping open the scar tissue of old wounds, Moscow leads people to think that the existence of the central power of Moscow is necessary in order to prevent nationalist discord between the peoples of Eastern Europe and of the center. It's a remarkable, adroit, and deceptive, tactic whose efficacy can be measured by the willingness of Western politicians to get into bed with Gorbachov and the Soviet Empire.

**Q:** What is going on with Transylvania, the former province of Hungary which was attached to Romania in 1920?

**Sujanszky:** Being Hungarian, I am of course very sensitive to the problem of Transylvania, unjustly detached by the wrong policy of Clemenceau in 1920—detached from Hungary and stuck onto Romania without a plebiscite, without respecting the principle of self-determination of peoples. Nonetheless, my main concern remains the difference of conception which exists between democratic societies based on the respect for human rights, and the totalitarian Marxism-Leninism embodied by the Soviet Union. In this framework, territorial problems, which do indeed exist, pass for me into the background. I think that in a united, free, and democratic Europe, such thorny problems, which originated from unjust treaties of the past, are going to find their equitable solution, which will have to be founded on reciprocal loyalty between peoples, on respect for the human rights of minorities, and on the principle of self-determination of peoples. But to get to that point, Marxist-Leninist imperialism, which has committed innumerable crimes against humanity in the same way as Nazism, must disappear definitively off the world political chessboard.

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## Book Review

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### A journalist's view of the Pacific War

by Dean Andromidas

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#### **Pacific Microphone**

by William Dunn

Texas A&M University Press, College Station,  
Texas, 1989

399 pages, hardbound, \$19.95

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If you have read several histories of the Pacific War or biographies of General Douglas MacArthur, then I highly recommend *Pacific Microphone*. This very readable book is the wartime memoir of a CBS correspondent who covered the Pacific beat, starting a few months prior to the outbreak of the Pacific War to the Allied victory in August 1945. Make no mistake, the book does not intend to be a history, but is Mr. Dunn's personal memoir of his experiences in that historic conflict. Its usefulness lies in the ability of the author's anecdotes and personal observations to add a third dimension to so many of the modern two-dimensional histories, dry books that, more often than not, are revisionist tracts that only succeed in distorting history to the purpose of their authors. Although Mr. Dunn is clearly a conservative by political persuasion, his observations are not at all made through ideological spectacles.

Being fairly well read in the Pacific War, this reviewer found that many of Mr. Dunn's personal observations and anecdotes lent greater insight into the events, political developments, and leading personalities that were part of that great war.

Mr. Dunn left for the Far East at the beginning of 1941, on a 90-day assignment that lasted nearly four years, first touring the pre-war U.S. colony the Philippines; the colonies of the British Empire including Singapore, the Malay states, Burma, and India; and the Dutch East Indies and China. He also visited pre-war Japan, observing its war mobilization, which was even apparent to a newscaster's superficial glance.

His observations on a region enjoying a dubious peace, while war raged in Europe, is testimony to how the public mind was so unprepared for the realities of war, especially the American population. A case in point is what he saw of Americans in Manila after the outbreak of war between Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union in June 1941. At that time, U.S. government policy, as early as the beginning of 1941, called for all dependents of American government and military personnel to evacuate the Philippines, which many had done. Nonetheless, many of these returned following the expansion of the European theater into the Soviet Union, with the attitude that “war will never come” to the Pacific. This hysteria permeated the American community, right up to the attack on the Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7. The hysterical illusion of peace crumbled under the dreadful reality of having to spend what became the next three and a half years in Japanese internment centers.

Mr. Dunn spent the first weeks of the war in the Dutch East Indies. He recounts how the Dutch military and civilian community, whose own soil was under Nazi occupation, had very few illusions in those dark pre-war days: After all, Japan would ultimately march to war to satisfy the need for East Indies oil. He recounts how the failure of the Dutch defense effort was due to a complete lack of the equipment necessary for defense and how those tools were denied by Great Britain and the United States. Mr. Dunn comments that, in this respect, the Allied effort was strictly to serve Anglo-American interests. He returns to this theme later on. In 1945, after MacArthur retook the Philippines, General Sutherland, MacArthur’s chief of staff, called him into his headquarters to brief him on the status of plans MacArthur had made to liberate the Dutch East Indies from the Japanese. Plans would not be carried out, according to Sutherland, because the British High Command had put up opposition. That decision, Dunn tells us, would lead to the bloody and protracted independence struggle in the Dutch colony, which contrasted to the bloodless transfer of independence enjoyed by the Philippines.

The bulk of Mr. Dunn’s narrative is taken up with the war itself, giving the reader a war correspondent’s view of General MacArthur’s brilliant campaign on the long road back to the Philippines and the eventual conquest of Japan. Unlike the liberal correspondents of the period, who took every opportunity to tag MacArthur as an egoist or an authoritarian personality, Mr. Dunn paints a true and insightful picture of a great soldier. Although he considered himself a personal friend, Dunn was by no means among MacArthur’s inner circle; nonetheless, his recollections and comments give important insights for anyone concerned with the MacArthur story; one wishes there were many more. Among Dunn’s personal friends and acquaintances were many of MacArthur’s leading commanders, including Adm. Thomas C. Kincaid, MacArthur’s naval commander; Gen. George Kenny, his air commander; and especially Gen. Robert L.

Eichelberger, 8th Army Commander. By means of these contacts, Mr. Dunn is able to set the record straight on the many hundreds of wild stories that are circulated to paint MacArthur as an egoist.

Although one would have hoped for more on MacArthur, the Pacific War was one of the longest and hardest ever fought, and Mr. Dunn does not leave the reader feeling as if he is suffering with historical leftovers. *Pacific Microphone* is one man’s war story and gives insight into how the war profoundly changed the lives of everyone involved. As a correspondent, Mr. Dunn was a noncombatant, but that did not make it any easier, which is underscored by the death of no less than 18 of his colleagues. His description of the challenge of reporting that war to the American people through their living-room radios also makes interesting reading. In those days the electronic media was still in its primitive stage—nonetheless, all newscasts were broadcast live, leaving the reporter with the challenge of finding a microphone close to the battle zone, but not too far from the broadcast facilities that reached the stateside studios.

### **The role of great culture in the war**

In reading a wartime memoir, one is always struck by the profound differences in life then and now, after 40 years of postwar “peace.” One example was the cultural life in the war. In contrast to the image that Hollywood promotes of the USO roadshow by today’s show business personalities, there was actually a strong appreciation for classical music. One of Dunn’s close military acquaintances, Air Force Gen. Paul B. Wurtsmith—who eventually became commander of the 13th Air Force—was a great devotee of classical music. In the midst of the war, Wurtsmith rescued Dunn’s own sizable collection of classical records from an Australian second-hand shop by flying in a B-17 Flying Fortress bomber to ferry them to his front-line airbase in the Philippines. Another moving anecdote tells how, after three and a half years of war, the Viennese conductor of the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra, organized his musicians literally out of the ashes of a liberated, but largely destroyed city, to perform Beethoven’s “Eroica” symphony in the burned-out remains of Manila’s Santa Cruz Cathedral as a celebration.

The only problem with *Pacific Microphone* is that it ends too soon. After detailing his work from day one of his “90-day” assignment, the main narrative ends following the surrender ceremonies aboard the battleship *Missouri*. In a brief epilogue Mr. Dunn recounts a few very interesting observations on the Korean War, including when he accompanied General MacArthur on his reconnaissance of the Yula River, then deep behind enemy lines, in MacArthur’s unarmed and unescorted aircraft. We are only informed through reading the book’s jacket that Mr. Dunn left CBS and returned to the Philippines to rebuild the Manila Broadcasting Company and then spent six months covering the Korean War for NBC.

Hopefully Mr. Dunn is considering a sequel to this book.