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M.A. Dissertation Evaluation

Jiří Hejtich

Koncept „čisté války“ jako součást zahraniční politiky Spojených států amerických 1989-2001

Jiří Hejtich (Jirka) has written his M.A. dissertation on the “clean war” concept as a part of American security policy. Jirka has wisely chosen the period between 1989 (the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe) and 2001 (the tragedy of September 11th and the ensuing war on terror). An approach based on case studies has been followed. The work is brilliantly written and referenced, divided into an introduction, ten main chapters and a conclusion, and contains five illustrative tables.

The introduction clearly states that the aim of the work is to ascertain the degree to which the “clean war” concept was respected in instances when American military forces have been deployed abroad during the given period. I like Jirka’s approach to the issues at hand and I think that his evaluation of the most important literature on the topic is commendable.

Chapter 1 provides an historical background of American military activities during the Cold War both before and after the Vietnam conflict. The characterization of conditions for deployment is sound. In Chapter 2, the revolution in military affairs and the “clean war” concept are analyzed as are overall developments in military technology. Chapter 3 introduces the post-Cold War period and developments in international relations theory. Also, the main actors and security threats on the international stage in the 1990s are discussed. Chapter 4 introduces the individual case studies dealt with in the next chapters. Chapters 5 through 9 scrutinize security and military developments in Iraq (1990-1991), Somalia (1992-1994), Bosnia-Herzegovina (1992-1995), Kenya and Tanzania (1998), and Kosovo (1998-1999). In Chapter 10, Jirka evaluates aspects involved in the conflicts. First, he classifies the conflicts.

Then he deals with the international system. Jirka then evaluates the national policies of the United States as well as military aspects. The final section of Chapter 10 delves into the relevance of the “clean war” concept as well as that of the Powell Doctrine. The charts here are very useful. Jirka concludes his work by confirming that the “clean war” concept influenced decisions to launch American military missions between 1989 and 2001.

Jiří Hejtich has produced a wonderful piece of work. I believe that he deserves to be rewarded for his efforts with an **excellent** mark and that he should receive a **dean’s**

