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## REVIEWS

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Glynn Barratt, *Russia in Pacific Waters, 1715-1825*; a survey of the origins of Russia's naval presence in the North and South Pacific. Vancouver and London: University of British Columbia Press, 1981.

This study is the latest in a growing list of Dr. Barratt's publications about Russians in the Pacific. It is gratifying to see someone using the Russian materials and presenting their story to English readers. Additionally, Barratt has been very successful in gaining access to Soviet archives--not an easy task despite his feeling that it is getting better.

As its subtitle suggests, the real contribution of this study is in its being a survey. There are individual treatments in Russian and some in English of many of the topics Barratt covers. The author, however, has presented for the first time a synthesis of the events, people, and places which shaped the development of the Russian Navy in the North and South Pacific.

Russia's naval adventures began under Peter the Great, founder of the Russian Navy, with a search for a passage between Asia and America. The background of Siberian developments--hunters racing for furs, the need to guard the fur supply from indigenous peoples, and the formation of a government--is portrayed concurrently with the two Bering expeditions. Other topics discussed include the growing trade in sea otters, the contribution of Cook, the establishment of the Russian American Company, the involvement of the Spanish in California and the Pacific, the first Russian circumnavigation under Kruzenshtern and Lisianskii, the role of V. M. Golovnin, and the eventual decline of Russia's Pacific Navy after 1825 under Nicholas I. From the early 1760s, mercantile, governmental, and naval operations became intertwined. Baranov, Sheffer, Rezanov, Delisle, Delarov, Rikord, Traversay, and Nesselrode are some of the numerous personalities whose roles in the naval exploits are recounted.

Barratt points out several patterns in Russia's naval expeditions. Secrecy, the inclusion of non-Slavic participants, and governmental rewards were precedents set by Bering. The Russians later acknowledged their debt to the British Navy for many of its contributions including the training of future Russian commanders, as well as technical training in the use of English instruments and charts. Cook's contributions were considered exemplary. By the time of the Kruzenshtern-Lisianskii voyage, further

precedents included the great prestige assigned such undertakings, the Baltic German participation, the invitations extended to scientists abroad, and the utilization of a largely Russian crew.

Some lessons that emerged from the adventure into Pacific waters included the fact that there were no adequate facilities to service ships, provisioning in Siberia and Russian America was very difficult, and the ruling monarchs did not consider the Pacific a high priority. However, at certain points in time, it was only Russia's perception of how England, Spain, France and the United States viewed her that hindered more aggressive action in the Pacific.

The Navy may have felt victorious when it eventually succeeded in taking over the Russian American Company and became the prime influence on the Council. In the end, however, it was largely due to this very naval influence that the Russian Navy was doomed to a weak role in the Pacific.

The inheritance of these Russian voyages is the discoveries, scientific contributions, and further commercial gains. The wealth of sketches by artists, and ethnographic observations made by those keeping diaries, logs, correspondence and notes languish in Soviet archives.

The book is well illustrated. There are sub-headings throughout the chapters to help follow the narrative. Dr. Barratt's work should be well received by a great many people and libraries. It is certainly impressive in the amount of information presented and in the sources used. Those who will not find as much benefit from this survey are the researchers able to use Russian sources and those more familiar with the field.

Since this is a survey in a broader context, I kept hoping that there might be more attention given to the views and policies of the United States, Britain and France. Good coverage of Spain and her perceptions of the Russians are presented.

Although this account begins with Peter the Great's interest in "all things that relate to seafaring," and with it Triaska's launching of the *Okhota* in 1716, Barratt might have acknowledged the significant role that seafaring played in the exploration and conquest of Siberia. In particular, Semeon Deshnev is believed to have navigated the Bering Sea between Asia and America in 1648.

Some introduction and background to the Admiralty College and its organization and role during the period covered would have been helpful. A brief summary of the developments in the Baltic Fleet, the Black Sea and other areas where the Navy was involved would have enhanced the larger perspective.

Barratt uses 1825, when the conventions with Britain and America were signed, as the turning point toward Russian naval decline in the Pacific. However, there were many voyages after 1825 having just as much "naval" purpose. To list a few--Kotzebue's second voyage on the *Predpriiatie*, Wrangell on the *Krotkii*, Staniukovich on the *Moller*, Litke's second voyage on the *Seniavin*, Khromchenko on the *Elena*, and so on.

The treatment of Vasili Golovnin seems rather heavy-handed and is in one case inaccurate. Golovnin is portrayed as the leader or "arch detractor" in the campaign to force the Russian American Company into fully recognizing the role of the Navy. He is accused of losing his calm objectivity in reporting on the state of the Company's affairs in 1818. In fact, for a number of years the Company had been in a state of decline. Baranov, the manager of the Company for eighteen years, and in ill health for the last few, had finally been replaced. Golovnin, Kotzebue two years earlier, or any one, had merely to describe the obvious. Golovnin was, after all, carrying out orders from the government to make such observations. On page 199, Barratt inaccurately states that Golovnin conferred with Hagemeister in Novoarkhangel'sk. If one checks Golovnin's own account, it is noted that Hagemeister was in California at the time, which Barratt had correctly stated earlier on page 189.

For all the information that is presented--possibly too much--there is often a feeling of needing just that extra bit of explanation or clarification. For example, on page 228 there is a discussion of the conventions. The American Convention is only briefly mentioned, while the British one is presented in greater detail. The date for the British Convention is given, but not for the American one. Since these conventions were such a crucial turning point, according to the author, it seems relevant to include a few paragraphs describing the American and British political situations which forced Russia into this signing. The dates of ship arrivals and departures are often not clear, which makes it difficult to determine how long a ship stayed where. At times, too, the events in the text are rather over-dramatically described.

Lastly, there are some technical problems, which should have been caught in the editing process. The lack of subject approach in the index of people, places and ships is annoying. An explanation clarifying the forms used for German Baltic names in the text and index should have been included in the preliminary notes. Hagemeister is chosen, although Hagemeister is as commonly used in other sources. Additionally, his patronymic is spelled as Adrianovich on page 154 and Andrieanovich on page 187. The Lazarev brothers, Mikhail and Andrei, cause some confusion as well. Andrei is not indexed at all, while Mikhail appears on more pages

than shown in the index. There are some misspelled Russian words. Footnote 19 in Chapter 10 states that an article appearing in the "Friend" was anonymous, yet it was signed by W. D. Alexander. Mr. Skorniakov-Pisarev is indexed under "S," but referred to as Pisarev in the main text. The coverage of the book begins with 1715, but might just as well start with 1716 when the *Okhota* was actually launched.

This book will make a contribution as an overall survey and reference work of Russian naval influence in the Pacific Ocean in the early nineteenth century. Events and peoples are presented in a broader context than has been treated previously in Western or Soviet scholarship. Dr. Barratt has adequately described the Russian naval experience as distinct from the mercantile and political events that shaped the history of the Pacific, yet at the same time also has shown the close inter-dependence of all these factors.

Patricia Polansky  
Hamilton Library  
University of Hawaii