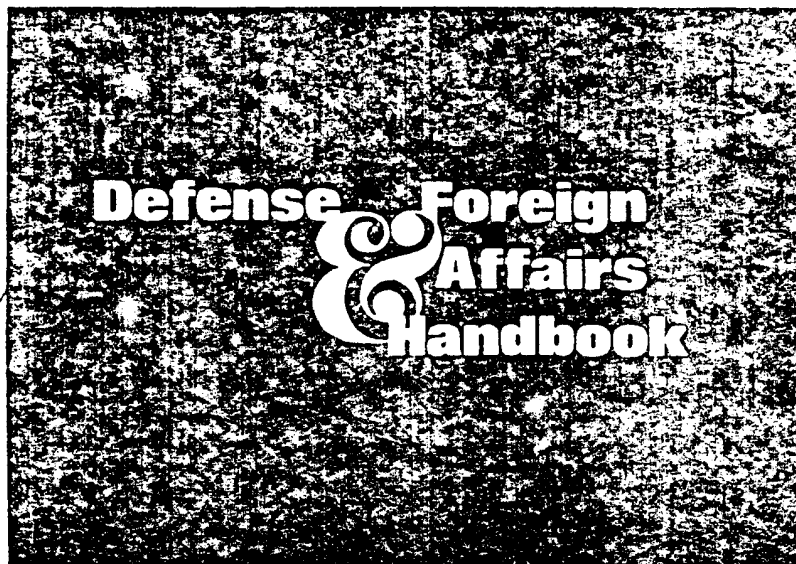


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Editor's Preface

"No man is an Island, entire of itself;
every Man is a piece of the Continent, a part of the main."

John Donne

Problems of the world weighed heavy as the *Defense & Foreign Affairs Handbook*, 1983 went to press as evidence of a massacre of civilian Palestinian refugees in Lebanon came to light, while countries on a variety of continents were attempting to cope with staggering debt levels and extraordinary inflation rates. The past year or so has seen the assassination of a number of political figures around the world, but few can forget the shooting of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, or the murder of the late President-elect Bashir Gemeyal of Lebanon just days before his inauguration. But as the Middle East — particularly during the Iran-Iraq War — captured the attention of many, political violence continued in Kampuchea, Afghanistan, El Salvador, in the Horn of Africa between Somalia and Ethiopia, in Ireland, Nicaragua, Chad, Honduras and Peru as well as in many other locations around the globe.

Looking back on time since the last edition of the *Handbook* there are many points worth highlighting for their significance to strategic doctrine and concepts as well as foreign affairs planning. The South Atlantic War will be studied and restudied throughout the world as further details are made available. Recriminations have been made against the UK Government and its intelligence networks for their failure to anticipate the takeover of the islands long claimed by Argentina. At the same time, the Argentine military has faced similar charges for its miscalculation of the British reaction to its maneuvers. The Argentina *Junta* also failed to accurately gauge international opinion on the seizure of the islands.

Meanwhile, defense manufacturers and tacticians have been supplied with a wealth of data on the performance of weapons as a result of the conflict there. This brief war in the South Atlantic between Argentina and the United Kingdom resulted in the first carrier-based combat seen since the Korean War, often in the worst weather imaginable. In addition, many weapon systems saw combat use for the very first time. For example, the AM.39 *Exocet* anti-ship missile was extensively used as was the helicopter-launched *Sea Skua* missile. The Argentines used their indigenously-made *Pucara* in a variety of creative roles during the war proving its adaptability in combat. Also, the *Super Etendard* naval strike aircraft proved its value over and over again. Nor should the important missions of the *Harrier* aircraft be forgotten in this war: it was the first operational use of V/STOL fighter power, and it was overwhelmingly successful. Lastly, nuclear submarines — although inconspicuous — played a quiet but crucial deterrence role in this crisis.

Defense & Foreign Affairs Publications have, during their decade of operation, been covering many international conflicts for its readership. Although the Argentine-UK crisis and the Iran-Iraq war tends to predominate thinking on the subject, it is perhaps not every day that we stop to think about or tally all of the numerous wars which have occurred since World War II. According to data gathered by the US Department of State, there have been some 130 international or civil wars since that time. The preface of a book is not the place for an in-depth

discussion of the breath and far reaching effects of those wars, but a *Handbook* such as this must act as a reminder of what has come to pass. The Western Sahara War involving Morocco, Algeria, Libya and the POLISARIO has had a widespread influence on its participants, as have the many Arab-Israeli wars in the Middle East. The latter wars have left their scars and problems to the troubled Lebanon which seeks to cope with the stresses and strains of Maronite Christians, Phalangists, Druze, Sunni and Shi'a Muslims, Palestinians, Greek Orthodox and Catholics, Armenians and many other religious actors. Perusal of the relevant country sections of this book will supply all of the other conflicts to numerous to detail here.

Apart from the political, military and economic ramifications on this earth, outer space has received more attention than ever before as the realm of the future. The US *Columbia* space shuttle brought triumph to its Government in the past year, while the Soviet Union continued to maintain its apparent lead in the field of anti-satellite systems (ASATs). The technology of space-based defenses will clearly be a part of the Government mindsets of these two superpowers and others for some time to come. Meanwhile, the US made headway in its efforts to seek international cooperation with the Japanese, Canadians and Europeans in an attempt to launch a space station by the 1990s. All this leads one to imagine that the world of outer space will become a key theater in the global strategy of the future.

On another front — away from much of the public focus — the Soviet Union continued its transition process, awaiting the time when President and CPSU General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev would relinquish the reins of office. This transfer of power, when it comes, will result in considerable change in the way the East-West balance is viewed, and we should be in a position to see the impact of this, probably by the time the next edition of the *Handbook* appears.

The 1983 *Handbook* has grown ever larger with more crucial and timely information. This edition is the product of an Herculean effort by Assistant Managing Editor Michael Gable, whose pursuit of the most up-to-date narratives and economic statistics kept him burning the midnight oil throughout the duration of the project. Scrambling to make sense of the battle orders of warring countries such as the United Kingdom and Argentina was another example of just how conscientious Gable was about his task. His meticulousness in tallying Navy Battle Orders has made this edition of the *Handbook* particularly noteworthy.

The Middle East and a number of African sections, particularly Chad must be highlighted for the expertise which Dr Michael Collins Dunn brought to bear. His erudite histories — he is an historian by training — provide enlightening background in complex areas of the world. His analysis of the Iran-Iraq war is the product of many interviews and contacts with both Arab and Iranian sources.

The NATO and Warsaw Treaty Organization sections of the book once again received the close scrutiny of defense analyst Richard Dana. These excellent sections should not be overlooked.

Because there have been so many coups and changes in Government leaderships in the past year and even while the book was being typeset, please turn to both the *Power Tables* and the *Late Addenda* for the most current information. The *Arms Transfer Tables* — a new feature in last year's edition of the *Handbook* — have become a regular feature by popular demand. As past readers will note, these have greatly expanded. The *Missile Tables* and *Standard Arms Price Index* have been recently updated for incorporation in this issue.

A special thanks to Graphics by Gallo for production assistance in the compilation of this book and to the entire staff of *Defense & Foreign Affairs Publications* who have contributed their expertise to the book in many capacities.

Jacquelyn S. Porth

Washington, DC: October 1982