

abroad. Here, Bohm has a unique perspective—he had to work directly with the ambassador and liaise with the potential Haitian invasion force. Many of Bohm’s other experiences in Iraq, Somalia, Okinawa and at a recruiting station in West Virginia, while interesting, are far more common and have been shared by thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of Marines.

Despite Bohm’s modesty, make no mistake that the career he narrates is an exceptional one. He joined the small ranks of the Corps’ general officers—at less than half of one percent of the active duty force. His assignments tell the same story. Bohm is repeatedly given command of Marines in independent and uncertain environments. While there is always a degree of change in officer assignments, there should be little doubt that at almost every stage of his career, Bohm would have been chosen from among his peers for duties and responsibilities that were especially challenging, or high profile. At the same time, it is striking the calibre of Marines Bohm has had the privilege of serving alongside, including a future Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps who served as Bohm’s senior enlisted advisor when he was a company commander. Bohm never disparages any other Marines or officers in the book and, in fact, usually notes their current job or the future rank they attained. Since Bohm is still serving on active duty, this is no tell-all or airing of dirty laundry.

The story peaks with description of Bohm’s time leading SPMAGTC-CR-CC. This is not a standing unit, but rather a purpose-built task force, designed by Bohm to deploy to the Middle East. The flexibility and adaptability of the SPMAGTC-CR-CC is a testament to the organizational nature of the Marine Corps, something that Bohm clearly explains. The unit arrives in Iraq rough-

ly at the high water mark of ISIL (also known as ISIS and Daesh) in Iraq and Syria and is immediately part of the action. Here, the story becomes more technical and Bohm is forced to use more jargon to describe the complicated US and coalition operations in Iraq, but this is a point where readers who are new to the Marine Corps and familiar with it will learn something. Bohm had not only a front row seat, but the driver’s seat—in the fight against ISIL in Iraq.

The story ends when Bohm returns to the US and he leaves the reader with concluding remarks, but without a concluding chapter to round out the book. This, and the lack of discussion about the future of the Marine Corps, leave the book feeling somewhat incomplete. But this may have been a conscious choice because of Bohm’s active-duty status, and the fact it was written before the ongoing changes to the Marine Corps were made public.

From the Cold War to ISIL is, in the end, exactly how Bohm describes it in the title and introduction. It is his personal journey through the Marine Corps. On the way, he includes shore lessons about the Marine Corps and ties his own story to the changes in the Marines Corps in recent decades. Unlike other memoirs of service, Bohm has not written a treatise on leadership, or lessons learned. This book is an excellent introduction or familiarization with the Marine Corps through the story of one exceptional Marine.

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Philip Bowring. *Empire of the Winds. The Global Role of Asia’s Great Archipelago*. London, UK: I. B. Tauris, www.bloomsbury.com, 2019. xviii+317 pp., illustrations, maps, glossary, notes, bib-

liography, index. UK £25.00, cloth; ISBN 978-1-7883-1446-6. (E-book available.)

Despite their current division into many states, the insular countries of the South-Asia Archipelago share a common history, along which spread out a common set of cultural and linguistic elements, that gave origin to “Nusantaria”. This term was firstly used during the thirteenth century to define the region that was under the Majapahit rule, based in the eastern part of Java. The word, deriving from the Sanskrit root “nusa”, means archipelago, but it was also used by many archeologists to describe the Austronesian-speaking people that gave origin to the ancient trading network in the region. Today we would know it as Maritime South East Asia, but it once included a much broader reach.

As Philip Bowring reports in this interesting book, the common cultural and linguistic background is proof that approximately 17,000 years ago, all lands of the Nusantarian Archipelago were linked together to form what has been identified as “Sundaland”, a huge peninsula that was heavily affected by climate change that occurred between 20,000 and 7,000 years ago.

At this stage, the islands of the Philippines, even if merged into one land, were separated from the mainland, while Sulawesi and the other eastern islands were already detached from other lands.

At a first sight, it may seem that Nusantaria’s history embraces only the insular Asian countries, but several linguistic and cultural aspects prove the link between Nusantaria and Madagascar. In fact, over 50 per cent of Magalasy people share a common gene pool with Nusantarian people. Many researchers also think that the Nusantarian merchants established commer-

cial relationships with some ports on the eastern coasts of Africa, introducing rice to the local diet. The commercial relationships between Nusantaria and the other parts of the world were mediated by Indian ports, where there is evidence for the presence of Chinese merchants since the first century CE. Even the Roman Empire established an indirect commercial relation with Nusantaria through Indian ports. The common denominator for all this Nusantaria trade is the sea and the wind. The cyclical monsoon system allowed the Nusantarian people to travel in a northwestern direction during the period April-September and in a southeastern direction from October to March.

Among the first civilizations in the region, the Funan people also seem to be the first people to have had contact with the Indian Brahmins, who reached the eastern coast of Vietnam for commercial purposes, bringing the first writing system, the religion and the kingship system. These elements represent the base of Cham culture, that emerged in this zone around 300 CE. There is evidence of Buddhism in Java in a report written in the fifth century CE, and an early Indian influence is also present in the islands of the Philippines.

China’s limited role in the region at the time was due to the strong influence of Confucianism, which undervalued the importance of commerce. This, in turn, inhibited the naval development of the Empire, reducing its influence to the acceptance of tributes, regularly payed by all Nusantarian rulers.

One interesting aspect of Nusantarian history is the presence of the Indonesian Srivijaya Empire, whose capital, Palembang, was based in western Sumatra. Despite its importance in the region and the influence it exercised in the area for over a thousand years, the Srivijaya Empire was not “discovered”

by western historians until the 1930s. The culture, organization and strength of this Empire represent the base for the Malay identity that unites all Nusantaraian islands. Its governing system allowed local rulers to maintain their autonomy while following common interests.

The unity of the Srivijaya Empire, which stimulated the development of many important ports, was compromised around 850 by a schism with the Sailendra dynasty, based in Java. This led to an increased Empire presence on the mainland, the defeat of the Khmer people and the founding Siam Reap in Cambodia.

The only example of an active Indian presence in the region is the Chola dynasty, responsible for the first external invasion of Nusantara, the attack and sacking of Palembang in 1025. Nusantara was again invaded during the reign of China's Ming dynasty following its invasion of northern Vietnam.

The arrival of the Portuguese fleet, commanded by Ferdinand Magellan in 1521, followed by the Dutch, Spanish, French, British and American ships, signaled the gradual disintegration of Malay culture and the decline of Nusantaraian naval power. The author includes an interesting reference to the naval construction skills of the Nusantaraians, which impressed the Europeans with their strength. His example is the Javanese *juncos* which were considered as giants of the sea. They were constructed using many layers of planks, making them able to resist Portuguese cannons.

Colonialism, especially in the Philippines, negatively affected the local communities, forcing them to embrace the Catholic religion and creating a situation of instability between the Islamic and the Christian zones of the region. On the other hand, Islam, introduced pacifically by Arab merchants around

the twelfth century, was adopted in a moderate version, through which the local communities were able to syncretize ancient traditional values, such as the parity of genders.

The author's choice of focusing on the common cultural background of the Nusantaraian islands, instead of analyzing in detail the history of each country, makes this book a valuable compendium of maritime history of Nusantaraian archipelago. It offers an important introduction and resource for all scholars who want to study the history and culture of South-East Asia.

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Ira Breskin. *The Business of Shipping*. Ninth Edition. Atglen, PA: Cornell Maritime Press A Division of Schiffer Publishing, www.schifferbooks.com, 2018. x+448 pp., illustrations, tables, notes, glossary, bibliography, index. US \$55.00, cloth; ISBN 978-0-7643-5472-4.

This classic reference source revises and updates a book that has appeared in many editions since first publication by Cornell Maritime Press in 1973 under Lane C. Kendall, an author with practical knowledge and experience in the commercial side of American shipping. Felix Cornell opened the maritime press that bore his name in 1939 in New York City to provide textbooks for seafarers and the new United States Merchant Marine Academy located at nearby Kings Point, Long Island. Cornell Maritime Press established a good reputation for its maritime offerings over several decades under Cornell's management and after 1978, under new owner Arthur Kudner, who moved the business to Centreville, Maryland. The eighth edition of the book was pub-