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Alfred Scott McLaren. *Emergency Deep. Cold War Missions of a Submarine Commander*. Tuscaloosa, AB: University of Alabama Press, www.uapress.ua.edu, 2021. xvi+280 pp., illustrations, notes, bibliography, index. US \$34.95, cloth; ISBN 978-0-8173-2092-8. (E-book available.)

In his book, *Emergency Deep. Cold War Missions of a Submarine Commander*, author McLaren provides an overview of both his time as a submarine commander and various submarine missions and activities during the Cold War. He balances the tension of dangerous missions with the mundane day-to-day issues that submarine commanders had to deal with in the course of their duties. Students of Cold War history should consider this an introductory text, but readers unfamiliar with the subject will also find it useful.

McLaren's memoir explores his time as commanding officer of the USS *Queenfish*. He also discusses the full cycle involved in preparing for, executing, and recovering from a submarine mission during this period. This includes crew training related to the mission at hand as well as other training necessary for conducting regular operations on a submarine. He also mentions the maintenance activities and duties of the crew while the submarine is in port, as well as at sea. Finally, he addresses disciplinary issues and the consequences of an assignment that is poorly handled or a job not properly executed. This provides the reader with a realistic view of a submariner's life during the Cold War, both the humdrum and the dramatic. Those familiar with submarine activities during this period might not find it particularly ground-breaking, but the less-informed should view this work as a solid introduction to the subject and investigate the author's suggestions for further reading.

While specific missions are not explicitly described, McLaren does cover the full spectrum of submarine activity. Since it is primarily a personal memoir, some topics are more fully discussed in his other books. This time, the author focuses on ordinary missions that some might consider less strategic, such as environmental surveys and the mapping of ice flows or the ocean floor. While not as glamorous as some more well-known missions, they were useful and necessary during the Cold War era. Readers looking for an in-depth explanation of the technical aspects of submarines, tactics or the technology used to accomplish their missions should look elsewhere.

McLaren explains what was expected of submariners and points out that not everybody was suited to working in submarines. He avoids deep technical discussions, and any issues that he feels might violate or compromise security, including referring to some of his fellow sailors only by name and last initial. While extensively referenced, the work does pull a considerable amount of

source material from the author's personal archive and recollections, rather than primary sources. This may make it difficult for those hoping to use the work for academic research.

Emergency Deep. Cold War Missions of a Submarine Commander is an exploration of the full spectrum of life and activities on a submarine and the issues that accompany it. While exploring submarine missions during the Cold War era, the author does it from a very personal perspective, which makes it more accessible to the casual reader. Rather than opening up new lines of research, McLaren's work provides a solid foundation for individuals looking for an entry point into the subject. His recommendations for further reading allow students at all levels to explore specific topics in greater depth.

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John D. McCown Jr. *Giants of the Sea: Ships & Men Who Changed the World; the fascinating story of the colossal cargo ships that make today's world trade possible & the pantheon of nine visionary titans who created them.* Self-published, 2020. 330 pp., bibliography. US \$29.95, hardback; ISBN 978-1-08790-276-0.

John McCown covers the business and enterprise aspects of the maritime transportation realm, loosely known as the shipping industry, from inception to the pandemic admirably well in *Giants of the Sea*. In a sector necessarily driven by trust, reputation and the offshoot cult of personality, McCown judiciously selects nine visionaries of the last century, and follows their stories of innovation and risk with the nuts and bolts of ship finance, manning, environment, and regulation. His access to source material like Bloomberg and other databases allows him to break it down by global ship-types and cargo movement trends and provide a genuine utility to readers. One always appreciates authors who obtain original material rather than dragging it from unvetted websites.

McCown treads a narrow edge and adroitly achieves a readable book which informs without drowning the reader in jargon or anecdote. An interesting flourish is his recap of what the nine luminaries gave back to society. As a shipping executive who worked closely with some of his subjects, McCown should be admired for what he had to leave out to achieve a pragmatic narrative flow. He recognizes the loss of almost all blue-water market share by the US fleet, from 60% in 1947 to about 1.5% today. The book's themes include the classics of supply and demand, economies of scale, ton miles, emissions reductions, barriers to market entry, the high cost to aggregate tonnage, the leadership bloodline conundrum, private versus public funding, opacity