Bookfile

Editorial Staff

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Walters, a political science professor at Howard, dedicates his work to “the people of Southern Africa.”

In the preface he writes: “In the course of several years of research on the political and security problems of Southern Africa, I became struck by the almost universal concentration of activists and scholars alike on the guerrilla war in the region, including the low-level war waged by the African National Congress of South Africa against the white regime, while the Afrikanners appeared to be preparing what has come to be known as ‘total war.’ This concern launched a series of articles and at least one monograph on South African nuclear capability. The point of this concern was that whereas in the early 1960s, South Africa was declared a threat to the peace and security of the international system by virtue of global racial tensions, its present possession of nuclear weapons potential has made it a threat to the very survival of people and states in the region of Southern Africa and, perhaps, far beyond.”

In eight well-researched chapters, Walters gives details of South Africa’s initial incentives to possess nuclear weapons and the role of the United States in “the development of U.S. nuclear relations with South Africa.”

Qaddafi — a point-by-point analysis of his ideology, in practice and in theory, and his rise from an unknown junior officer to the leader of an oil-rich nation, by Mohamed El-Khawas, published by Amana Books, Brattleboro, Vt.

El-Khawas, who is professor of history at the University of the District of Columbia, presents a chronology of key events that have transformed this once politically tame country in North Africa to one that today is politically active regionally, and beyond — a nation that is revered by its friends, hated or feared by its enemies.

All of the significant developments in the rise of Muammar Qaddafi to power and leadership, his new ideology of The Third Universal Theory (to shape a wholesome society in Libya first, then beyond), the influence of Egypt’s Nasser on his political development, his devotion to his religion (Islam), his many contradictions, his support for the cause of Palestinians and other liberation movements, his international exploits and confrontations with the United States, and how he fares among his own people are graphically detailed in this book.

An excerpt: “On September 1, 1969, Muammar Al-Qaddafi, then a virtually unknown officer in his late twenties, rose to leadership in Libya, an oil-rich North African nation of three million people. No one then could have suspected how prominently he would affect events, in the Middle East and elsewhere, in the decades to follow.

“Over the years, Qaddafi has emerged as a charismatic, complicated leader, full of contradictions — generous, proud, vindictive, egotistical and totally committed to his people and his cause.”

where are the love poems for dictators? — a collection of poems by E. Ethelbert Miller, published by Open Hand Publishing, Inc., Washington, D.C.

Here is but one of the many offerings in the book by Miller, director of the Afro-American Resource Center at Howard University:

when there are no more poems to be written go & wake the dead tell them that the war is over that victory is ours tell them that the living too have found peace

The column on current releases will appear from time to time.