They were confident that U. Ojserkis ably captures this tumultuous period in American history. Ojserkis, who completed his doctorate at the [End Page ] London School of Economics, synthesizes a wide array of sources, both archival and secondary, to analyze the diplomatic, military, and economic impact of the post military mobilization. He lays out a series of seven questions but quickly focuses on the most important one: Why could the Truman administration not initiate the mobilization called for by NSC 68 in April without the intervention of the Korean War? This is not a new question, but it is a crucial one. Ojserkis does an excellent job of separating the two. He demonstrates that the scope of the mobilization called for in NSC 68 went far beyond the needs of the Korean conflict but that the outbreak of the war was a necessary condition to break the bureaucratic logjam that would have strangled the effort. Ojserkis divides his narrative into six main chapters: Demobilization, Consolidation, Reconsideration, Transformation, Globalization, and Actualization. The first two chapters discuss the rapid contraction of the early postwar military establishment, as the vast World War II force of shrank to a rump organization in that was heavily dependent on a limited stockpile of nuclear weapons.

The remaining four chapters study the origins, implementation, and impact of the arms buildup. After recounting the initial calls for rearmament in in the aftermath of the Soviet nuclear bomb test and the Communist victory in the Chinese civil war, Ojserkis discusses the struggles between Secretary of State Dean Acheson and Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson during the NSC 68 deliberations, the impact of the North Korean attack on South Korea, and the radical shift of Truman's foreign policy outlook. Ojserkis conveys well the sense of shock and alarm that suffused the U. The tables he provides in his final chapter, "Actualization," are powerful indeed. Before 25 June the U. By 1 January that force had doubled in size to 21 Army and 3 Marine divisions, Air Force wings, warships, and 16 carrier groups. Ojserkis is quick to remind us that the numerical increases tell only part of the story. He contends, correctly, that the mobilization led to a total technological transformation of the U. Arms Build-Up. Author: Mark J. Date: Summer Publisher: Air University Press. Document Type: Book review. Length: words.

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It also outlines the factional fighting within the Truman administration over military spending and deployments and considers the Truman administration's perceptions of Soviet military power and intentions. The author presents a fascinating account of the strategy and politics behind the Truman administration's decision to engage in a massive arms build-up that initiated the Cold War arms race. In this thoughtful, well-researched monograph, Ojserkis broadens the debate over the international, economic, and political consequences of the post Cold War conflict between the US and the Soviet Union Highly recommended. Most levels and collections. Ojserkis provides a useful, well-written study of a complicated and difficult topic, and does so in pages. Although much of the material is not new, the volume ably synthesizes a great deal of information that will be of use to undergraduates, graduate students, and established scholars.

This is a chronological study close to official history, but it is well argued nonetheless. Truman would be pleased. Libraries Unlimited. Need Help? Try our Search Tips. Award Winner. Ojserkis ably captures this tumultuous period in American history. Ojserkis, who completed his doctorate at the [End Page ] London School of Economics, synthesizes a wide array of sources, both archival and secondary, to analyze the diplomatic, military, and economic impact of the post military mobilization. He lays out a series of seven questions but quickly focuses on the most important one: Why could the Truman administration not initiate the mobilization called for by NSC 68 in April without the intervention of the Korean War? This is not a new question, but it is a crucial one. Ojserkis does an excellent job of separating the two. He demonstrates that the scope of the mobilization called for in NSC 68 went far beyond the needs of the Korean conflict but that the outbreak of the war was a necessary condition to break the bureaucratic logjam that would have strangled the effort. Ojserkis divides his narrative into six main chapters: Demobilization, Consolidation, Reconsideration, Transformation, Globalization, and Actualization. The first two chapters discuss the rapid contraction of the early postwar military establishment, as the vast World War II force of shrank to a rump organization in that was heavily dependent on a limited stockpile of nuclear weapons. The remaining four chapters study the origins, implementation, and impact of the arms buildup.

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