

## FOREIGN POLICY & DEFENSE

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launch a "10-year housing boom."

The U.S. and Japan, Bergsten concludes, should form a "Group of Two" to stabilize world currencies and form the basis for a new economic order. Americans and Japanese "must either learn to work closely together or they will continually square off in hostile confrontations."

### *Exporting Democracy?*

"Is Democratic Theory for Export?" by Jacques Barzun, in *Ethics and International Affairs* (1987 Annual), 170 East 64th St., New York, N.Y. 10021.

One of the Reagan administration's goals has been to encourage democracy abroad. The National Endowment for Democracy, with a \$15 million budget, was created in 1983 to push this effort.

Can democracy be exported? Barzun, university professor emeritus at Columbia, thinks not. In the first place, democratic institutions differ widely around the world. For example, in Australia the national referendum, and in Holland proportional representation are considered essential. In France, the police are allowed to gather and keep information on ordinary citizens to a much greater degree than in the United States.

Second, Barzun argues, democracy, whatever its form, "cannot be promoted from outside." Rather, a "cluster of disparate elements and conditions" which may include literacy, a common language, and common traditions, must develop internally. Then a people must learn democratic behavior for themselves. Democratic principles imposed from above will fail to take root. In Africa and Asia, many of Europe's former colonies have not formed democratic regimes because they were "let go" by their colonial rulers too soon. They had not yet learned "the ways of freedom."

Troubles within democracy further cloud its appeal elsewhere. Barzun argues that in the West, recent popular demands for equality conflict with democratic freedoms. "Freedom calls for a government that governs least; equality for a government that governs most," says Barzun. Ultimately the quest for equality leads to a "conflict of claims [and] a division of the body politic." In some cases, demands for equal rights lead to separatist movements (such as that of the Basques in Spain) within long-established states.

Because democracy is so complex, Barzun says, "the parts of the machine are not detachable" for export. Americans, he concludes, "cannot by any conceivable means" teach other countries democratic ways.

### *Beyond Hiroshima*

"Third-Generation Nuclear Weapons" by Theodore B. Taylor, in *Scientific American* (Apr. 1987), 415 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10017.

In 1945, the first generation of atomic weapons was introduced—fission bombs that leveled Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The 1949 U.S. test explosions at Bikini Atoll in the Pacific signaled the introduction of a second generation of nuclear weapons—fusion or "thermonuclear" hydrogen

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bombs with enormous destructive power.

Taylor, a former nuclear weapons designer who is now president of NOVA, Inc., an energy development firm, predicts that a third generation of nuclear weapons will soon be developed. "These weapons," Taylor writes, "would be as removed from current nuclear weapons in terms of military effectiveness as a rifle is technologically distant from gunpowder."

Unlike that of current weapons, energy produced by third-generation nuclear weapons will be targetable and controllable. Designs now under consideration at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory can theoretically direct nuclear energy towards a target, perhaps by converting the explosion energy into pulses of electricity with magnetohydrodynamic generators. The wavelengths of the radiation produced by the explosion can also be modified to produce increased levels of microwaves, gamma rays, or neutrons.

Containing and directing radiation from nuclear weapons is particularly important in space, where the products of a nuclear explosion could affect a much wider area than a similar explosion in the Earth's atmosphere. Because there is no resistance to objects propelled through space, even small explosions can yield large results. For example, converting five percent of the energy produced by a one-kiloton explosion in space could produce enough microwaves to severely damage electrical equipment over 250 square kilometers, an area larger than Washington, D.C.

Deployment of third-generation nuclear weapons will depend on the support the Soviet Union and the United States give to their respective weapons research laboratories. Taylor predicts that if the two superpowers continue underground nuclear testing, "it will probably be just a matter of time before these new types of offensive and defensive nuclear weapons are developed."

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### *Rubber Numbers*

"Whom Do You Trust? An Analysis of Executive and Congressional Economic Forecasts" by Mark S. Kamlet, David C. Mowery, and Tsai-Tsu Su, in *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* (Spring 1987), 605 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10158.

In a December 1981 interview in the *Atlantic Monthly*, David Stockman, then director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), charged that the Reagan administration had created "political numbers" in preparing economic predictions for the 1982 fiscal year budget statement. Stockman declared that unduly optimistic economic predictions had been used to justify the 1981 round of tax cuts.

But Stockman was only partially right, say Kamlet and Mowery, associate professors, and Su, a doctoral student, all at Carnegie-Mellon University. The long-range economic forecasts released by the Reagan administration in 1981 were overly optimistic, predicting that the gross national product (GNP) would grow at an average rate of 1.5 percent more each