

**THE EVOLUTION OF OPERATIONAL CONCEPTS IN  
NAVAL WARFARE. REVIEW OF THE BOOK ON  
CONTESTED SHORES: THE EVOLVING ROLE OF  
AMPHIBIOUS OPERATIONS IN THE HISTORY OF  
WARFARE, VOL. 2, BY HECK, T., FRIEDMAN, B. A., &  
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This review is based on our research interests of the Rector-Commandant of Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy Prof. Dsc Boyan Mednikarov and Deputy-Rector Commandant Captain (N) Prof. Dr. Kalin Kalinov in the field of naval operations and naval tactics. It is an absolute pleasure for us to be able to share our impressions of *On Contested Shores. Volume 2* in the form of a brief review.

It is rare to come across a collection that based on the work of different authors manages to unite in a single logical structure the various aspects of perhaps the most complex form of use of forces – amphibious operations. Starting from the doctrinal aspects and the logistical organization, through the technological side of the operations, emphasizing the organization and training, tracing the joint nature of these combat actions, *On Contested Shores. Volume 2* logically leads us to the political and geostrategic dimensions of modern amphibious operations.

Regardless of the various cases discussed individually in the sixteen chapters, the arrangement and selection of the materials give a sufficiently good and comprehensive view of the evolution of the operational concept.

Two aspects were of particular interest to us.

The first was related to the presentation of the operational concepts of the amphibious operations in the Soviet forces, since for a long historical period the concepts of their military school of thought dominated our military art. In *Red Tide over the Beach: Soviet Amphibious Warfare in Theory and Practice* the author Benjamin Claremont demonstrates an exceedingly high, one might argue academic, degree of knowledge of the doctrinal foundations of the concepts of the former Soviet Naval School. The author has captured and successfully presented that typical "continental" model of conducting landing operations, typical for the Soviets.

There you can find the second important aspect that was of particular interest to us – the difference in the perceptions of the continental and expeditionary models of conducting amphibious operations. Insofar as the concepts of conducting the amphibious operation to a high degree

conceptually predetermine the model of organizing the coastal defense, this issue becomes of essential importance for all militaries around the world.

It is absolutely logical that attention has also been paid to the issue of the growing integral nature of the operations and the resulting need for a high level of interoperability between the different units from different types of forces participating in a landing operation. In fact, it can easily be argued that the valuable evolution of the concept of interoperability occurs precisely in amphibious operations. They are the operations where interoperability becomes the "flesh and blood" and can be tangibly perceived.

The final part of *On Contested Shores. Volume 2* is also remarkably interesting, where the geopolitical perspective of the operations is skillfully traced. Only from this point of view can the dialectical relationship between the political ambitions of the state and the construct of its armed forces be perceived. This relationship is particularly well illustrated by tracing the influence of politics on the construct of the specialized expeditionary forces.

In summary, *On Contested Shores. Volume 2* is an interesting read, intended for a wide audience - from traditionally interested readers of history, to a specialized military audience.

It is one of those books that, once you read, you start looking for its previous issues. We strongly recommend *On Contested Shores. Volume 2* to military specialists, and to anyone interested in the history of armed combat.