izations are central to the contemporary economic and political life of island peoples. Half the text is devoted to regional and international issues and developments. In regard to economic planning, political institutions, and relations with other nations (on the rim or beyond the Pacific Ocean), it is a misleading convenience to use a regional affiliation rather than Tongan, Ni-Vanuatu, or Palauan. The authors do highlight the need to consider links between islands and their neighbors (in the basin or on the rim), and with rim blocs such as ASEAN. These passages suggest directions for the future that will certainly require greater attention by political scientists.

On the positive side, this publication offers a third of its pages to a nation-by-nation summary. Although marred by several errors and now outdated entries, it will be useful for readers beyond the Pacific who are seeking a quick guide. There are now several almanacs and directories on the Pacific, and they probably sell well beyond the Pacific, and to island peoples about to enter the regional academic, management, institutional, or consultant network. Such readers need to be aware of the dangers of relying too fully on The Pacific Islands. It offers a narrow view and, for me, is misleading and cursory in the picture of the Pacific that it offers.

MAX QUANCHI
Queensland University of Technology


Once viewed as one of the most stable regions in the world, the South Pacific displayed dramatic signs of volatility and instability in the late 1980s. The most notable conflicts included the 1987 military coups in Fiji that successfully overthrew the democratically elected Bavadra government; the Bougainville secessionist revolt and ensuing blockade of the island by Papua New Guinea military forces; and the conflict between the Kanaks and the French over independence for New Caledonia. Other major disputes in the period centered on nuclear and environmental issues, including the New Zealand–United States conflict over access of nuclear warships; regional concerns over French and American failure to ratify the protocols of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty (Rarotonga Treaty); and US chemical weapon storage and incineration at Johnston Island.

This new collection of papers by Australian and French academics, edited by Desmond Ball, head of the Strategic Studies Centre, and Stephen Henningham, senior research fellow in the Division of Pacific and Asian History, both at the Australian National University, seeks to analyze recent developments affecting the security of
the South Pacific and longer-term trends and prospects for regional security.

Ball provides an introductory overview of the new security context in the region following the end of the Cold War, emphasizing the implications of the drawdown of American and Soviet power projection in the region, the growth in the economic and military strength of both Northeast and Southeast Asia, and the increasing regional and global threats to the environment. These include the greenhouse effect, potentially rising sea levels, deforestation, climatic changes, pollution, and overexploitation of marine resources. Arguing for a rethinking of traditional concepts of security, Ball calls for a "multi-dimensional approach to regional security" that embraces not only the traditional military factors Australia and other Western metropolitan states have long been obsessed with, but also the economic, diplomatic, and environmental aspects of security.

Unfortunately, although the book contains useful and informative surveys and descriptive analyses of island states' foreign and defense policies, the policies of external powers, and island state economic constraints and options, Ball's appeal for a multidimensional approach is not developed by the other contributors.

Rodney Cole analyzes economic constraints and possibilities in the region, argues that timber, mining, and tourist services offer the most promising avenues for development, and appeals for efforts to "stir the latent entrepreneurs of the South Pacific into action." However, he gives little consideration to the environmental and social implications of economic development, let alone concepts of sustainable development that will provide secure environments for future generations rather than a pattern of desertified islands set in a dead or dying ocean. Nor does he address the need for economic development to be closely integrated with infrastructure and community development in ways that build on, rather than destroy, existing social and cultural systems (see, for example, the discussion in Utula Samana's 1988 book, Papua New Guinea: Which Way? Arena Publications, Melbourne). Elsewhere, the environmental dimensions of security receive only two pages of discussion in Henningham's paper on foreign and defense policy, rather than the chapter-length treatment their urgency and complexity would warrant.

David Hegarty discusses the role of external powers such as the United States, Japan, and the Soviet Union, and Stephen Henningham covers Australian and New Zealand policies toward the region. But they make little effort to analyze the responsibilities of metropolitan states to provide compensation and better terms of trade, given that environmental and resource degradation in the region is attributable far more to the industrial and military activities of external countries than to the activities of the island states themselves.

The contribution of Yves Pimont, director of the French University of the Pacific in Noumea, is particularly disappointing in that it makes little effort to engage with regional or even French academic critics (such as Jean Chesneaux). Instead, Pimont confines him-
self to standard French government rhetoric on the "right" of France to stay in the Pacific forever. France must remain in the region to be "sure of a place among the major powers" and to maintain control over some 7.6 million square kilometers of marine economic zones. French testing must be continued to maintain the "independence and credibility of French deterrent power" and to contribute to peace in the region and globally, although Pimont does not say whom the French deterrent is deterring now that the Cold War is over.

Elsewhere in his paper, Pimont makes the dubious claim that the standard of living in French and American territories in the region is higher than in the independent island states. The overall GNP per capita figures he cites are entirely misleading without a further analysis of the relative standards of living of expatriates compared to indigenous peoples in those territories. Pimont's claim that France is "viewed, in the region, as a defender of basic democratic values" is likewise highly questionable given France's history of repressing and jailing both Kanak and Polynesian independence leaders and activists in the postwar period, its refusal to permit a referendum on French testing in Polynesia, and its opportunistic postcoup military and economic support of the Fijian military who overthrew the democratically elected Bavadra government.

Consistent with the failure of most of the contributors to go beyond a one-dimensional analysis of regional security issues is the limited discussion of popular and grassroots involvement in nuclear, environment, and security issues, despite the availability of several studies on these topics (for example, Stewart Firth's *Nuclear Playground*, 1988). The influence of "people power" in the South Pacific may not have been quite as dramatic as in Eastern Europe or the Soviet Union, but it is an important factor in the spurring of regional governments toward adequate and imaginative responses to a range of environmental, military, and economic security threats.

Notably, the contributors fail to analyze new security options, such as the Henderson Report's call for a regional compact of comprehensive security that would draw together existing instruments of regional security (such as the Rarotonga Treaty, the South Pacific Regional Environment Program, SPARTECA, the Driftnet Fishing Convention), provide a framework for developing new conventions, and give the South Pacific Forum the responsibility for developing a comprehensive approach to regional security concerns (*Towards a Pacific Islands Community*, New Zealand Government Printer, Wellington, May 1990, p 230).

Finally, despite the increasing salience of military and economic power in Northeast and Southeast Asian countries, the contributors offer little discussion of further measures of regional arms control that would seem warranted, such as chemical and long-range-missile-free zones and the development of nuclear-free zones in adjoining regions to complement and secure the existing nuclear-free zone in the South Pacific. Few could have foreseen the extraordinary arms control developments of late 1991, but even in 1989 and 1990 a number of official and
unofficial proposals for new regional arms control measures were on the table. These included, for example, ASEAN proposals for a nuclear-free zone, Gorbachev's proposals for Asia-Pacific dialogue on regional security and arms control, and Australian proposals for regional involvement in conventions banning chemical and biological weapons. The new unilateral moves by the United States to remove all tactical nuclear weapons from its naval and air forces, as well as land-based nuclear munitions in South Korea, will certainly enhance the prospects for arms control and disarmament in the whole Asia-Pacific region.

MICHAEL HAMEL-GREEN
Victoria University of Technology, Melbourne

* * *


Kluge's The Edge of Paradise is a reprise of a personal odyssey through American Micronesia that began in 1967. At the age of twenty-five and with a new PhD in hand, Kluge volunteered for the Peace Corps. He was initially dismayed, even disappointed with his assignment to a place so unknown, so unimportant that people had never heard of it—a place "Off the edge of the earth" (16). Like so many before him, however, Kluge was soon captured by the lure of the islands and was changed forever.

Kluge was "a 'high caste' volunteer" (20), not an exile sweating out his time on some isolated atoll in the boon-docks. As editor of the US Trust Territory's quarterly magazine, the Micronesian Reporter, he enjoyed a home base on Saipan, headquarters of the high commissioner, and the freedom to travel the territory at large. Kluge became familiar with Micronesia's elite and a close friend and associate of Lazarus Salii, who would later become the second president of Palau.

At the end of Kluge's stint as a volunteer and before he returned to the United States for a career as a journalist, screen writer, and novelist, Salii, as head of Micronesia's Political Status Commission, called on his talents as gifted writer. Kluge remained involved, returning to Micronesia more than once, including 1975, when he served as director of the Micronesian Constitutional Convention. The two men kept in touch through Salii's trips to Washington and the United Nations and long-distance phone calls in the middle of the night. It ended with Salii's apparent suicide in 1988.

In large part, Kluge's book is an attempt to come to terms with the past. He mourns the loss of his friend, is disappointed and disillusioned over the outcome of America's half century in Micronesia, and reflects upon his own lost youth.

After Salii's death, Kluge made a pilgrimage across Micronesia. There were stops at Majuro, Ponape, Truk, Saipan-Tinian, Yap, and last, Palau; his very spellings (as used here) are those of a former time. There were conversations and reminiscences with old friends. Kluge recalls the idealism of the young Micronesians of three decades earlier. Without undue delay