

footnote 1 in the intolerance study which dutifully explains why most Westerners formerly spoke of *the* Ukraine. The book's compiler-author states that Russians typically employed the definite article in referring to the region. Ukrainians, however, tend to drop the definite article, implying that the republic stands by itself and is nobody's borderland. In reality, neither Russian nor Ukrainian has articles — definite or indefinite.

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Kennan, George F. *Around the Cragged Hill: A Personal and Political Philosophy*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1993.

By introducing the term 'containment' to the American political vocabulary in July 1947, George Frost Kennan ensured his place in history. During his twenty-seven years of formal public service this stately gentleman served in a number of key government positions, including first deputy for foreign affairs at the National War College, head of George Marshall's Policy Planning Staff in the American State Department, and finally, in May 1952, as the American Ambassador to the Soviet Union. After retiring from government service in 1953 Kennan found a new home at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, where he has since authored eighteen books on a variety of historical subjects. Today, he is recognized as both a primary architect and a vociferous critic of post-war American foreign policy.

In essence *Around the Cragged Hill* represents yet another attempt by Kennan to set the record straight vis-a-vis what he terms his "personal and political philosophy." One could argue, that this book is a response to those scholars, a group of which has significantly proliferated over the last ten years, who have spent the bulk of their intellectual lives trying to come to terms with the political ideology of the so called 'father of containment' — a title which he disparages.

Yet, if as Kennan argues, the primary purpose of *Around the Cragged Hill* is to "respond to the demands of some critics that [he tries] to identify, somewhat more specifically than [he has] ever done in the past, those of [his] views and reactions — of his prejudices . . . that might be said to be of a philosophical nature," (p. 113) then this latest publication can only be viewed as disappointing. For within this context there are very few new insights offered. Indeed, one of the most amazing yet curious aspects of Kennan's career is the degree to which his personal political philosophy has remained unchanged over the past fifty years.

Philosophically Kennan remains the quintessential realist. He argues that "people tend, over the long run, to get the type of government they deserve," and therefore the United States bears no responsibility for those who are unfortunate

enough to live in an hostile environment: unless of course these countries have both the capability and the intention of threatening American 'vital' interests. Shrouded in a pseudo-isolationist mentality he easily skirts the issue of world community and global responsibility.

One of the only new insights Kennan offers is a brief discourse into his own religious beliefs. It is fascinating for the reader to watch such a rational being as Professor Kennan trying to come to terms with such a non-rational concept as religion. In the end he is forced to take the only solution open to us all — he creates his own belief system and lives his life accordingly.

Remaining true to form, Kennan also offers a critique of contemporary American foreign policy and prescribes a number of diplomatic and military alternatives for the future. It is in this second area that he has a bit more success. Unfortunately, his success comes not from the policy alternatives themselves, which are fundamentally at odds with the prevailing intellectual climate, but from his ability to identify the critical issues which will have to be addressed in the near future. For example, in a cursory discussion of military planning in chapter ten he argues that the United States "would do well to avoid any sort of planning based on hypothetical conflict with a specific country." Given the problems faced by the American armed forces during the build up for DESERT SHIELD, due to the lack of a contingency plan for possible Iraqi aggression, it is doubtful that the military community would accept his argument; a fact which he concedes.

*Around the Cragged Hill* is not recommended for the thin skinned liberal unfamiliar with Kennanology. George Frost Kennan remains conservative to the core and he concedes that he has no sympathy for the liberal position, which he believes is marred by, "oversimplification, social jealousy, and intellectual posturing." He supports 'trickledown economics,' does not believe in desegregation ("people should be allowed to do what comes naturally"), and he concludes that "every attempt at social levelling ends with levelling to the bottom, never at the top." His views, which no doubt will offend some people, may be easier to swallow if one remembers they were composed in one of Princeton's ivory towers.

However, at eighty-eight, Kennan remains an extremely powerful and literate writer, and for the vast number of Kennan groupies still out there *Around the Cragged Hill* is well worth reading. One can only hope that his conservative elitism will not discourage a new generation of scholars from continuing to take the time to get to know this extremely wise and prolific man.

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