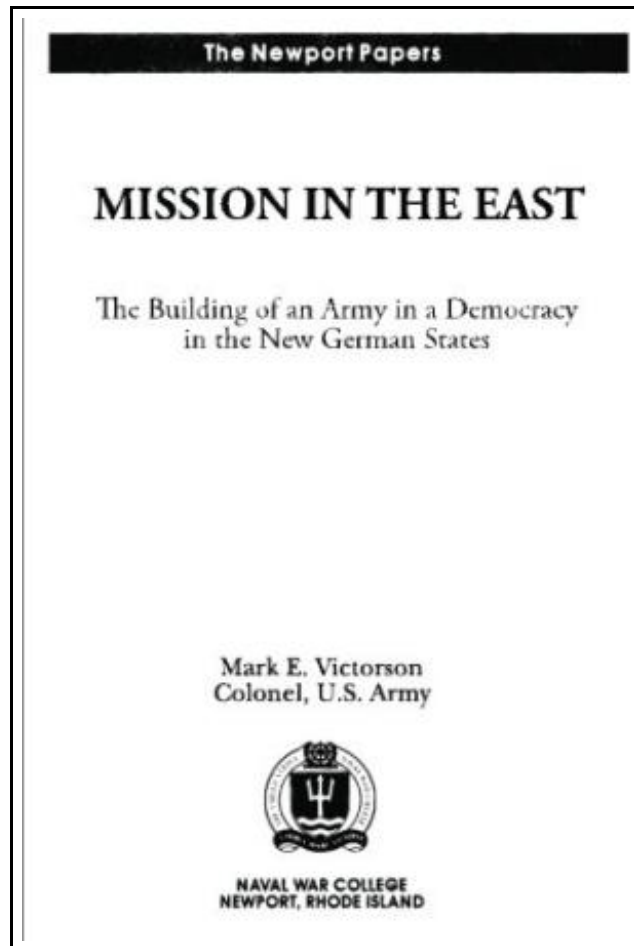


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(Letha Okuneva)

MISSION IN THE EAST THE BUILDING OF AN ARMY IN A DEMOCRACY IN THE NEW GERMAN STATES NAVAL WAR COLLEGE NEWPORT PAPERS 7



CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 62 pages. Dimensions: 9.0in. x 6.0in. x 0.1in. At midnight on 2 October 1990 the German Democratic Republic (GDR) ceased to exist. The following day the armed forces of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Bundeswehr, took control of the personnel, equipment, and installations of what had been the National Peoples Army (Nationale Volksarmee or NVA). By any reckoning this was a massive undertaking and one of great historical significance. Securing, inventorying, and disposing of this materiel was to be a major mission for the Bundeswehr throughout its first years in the new states. Complicating this mission was the almost immediate need to support the liberation of Kuwait through materiel shipments and support of departing U. S. ; units, the additional responsibility to assist the Western Group of Soviet Forces in an orderly withdrawal from German territory; and the longer-term requirement to reduce the Bundeswehrs size by almost 30 percent. Of more lasting significance, however, will be the human impact of the union of the two Germanys. If the changes for West Germans have not been as dramatic, the effects have certainly been felt intensely. In the midst of the changes wrought by unification, the Bundeswehr took on missions for which its origin and history had uniquely qualified it. First, there was the self-imposed requirement to select former NVA officers and noncommissioned officers who requested active duty in the Bundeswehr and then train them to assume the functions of leaders in the armed forces of a democratic society. Second, the Bundeswehr would have to build legitimacy for the armed forces among an East German population that had learned to distrust the military. The concepts of Innere Fuehrung, or Inner Leadership, which had stood the Bundeswehr in...



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