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Book Review: Quantum Jump: A Survival Guide for the New Renaissance

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Quantum Jump: A survival guide for the new Renaissance

By W.R. Clement,
Toronto: Insomniac Press, 1998

Reviewed by Dr. Robert J. Bunker, Fellow, Institute of Land Warfare, Association of the United States Army.

Clement's central argument in this important work is that a higher level of abstraction is required for individuals and their societal groupings to survive during the second Renaissance now taking place. Of necessity, such an argument requires a discussion of the time-space continuum and Western post-medieval views of dimensionality. The terms hyperspace (geometric), cyberspace (informational), and N-space are used interchangeably to discuss the higher dimension that has emerged. The works of Planck, Einstein, Heisenberg, Schrodinger, and Dirac are drawn upon in the text, and the author has a good working knowledge of the scientific literature.

While the book has a political science and economic focus and utilizes discussions of artistic perspective in support of its arguments, it has profound implications for research, development, and acquisition professionals. It supports the contention of some military scholars that a more advanced definition of battlespace, beyond that utilized in *Joint Vision 2010*, is critical to future Army warfighting needs. The important nature of this theoretical requirement is underscored in an early passage on Page 49 of this work:

Historically, societies that have failed to accommodate emergent world-views have lost access to the betterments of growth and improved economic and social benefits congruent with their time in history. In fact, their access to the economic benefits decreased as they slipped from the global mainstream. The services they were able to deliver to their citizens deteriorated and their influence on world issues became irrelevant. Societies which do not embrace new-world views do not usually survive. Some slip back to barbarism. Others are subsumed into more adaptive cultures whose intellectual evolution has been more successful.

The book is divided into five parts. The first part discusses the beginning of the hyperspace era and its interrelationship to the developing new world order. The second part focuses on the fault lines developing in the new world order. A very interesting section concerning Islam's dysfunctional relationship to cyberspace should be noted in this part of the book. It is reminiscent of LTC Ralph Peters' (USA, Ret.) discussion of the warning signs of "noncompetitive states" in his work *Fighting for the Future*. The third part explores life in cyberspace and the increasing value of tangential thought (e.g., nonlinear intuitive problem solving that utilizes inadequate information and conventionally unobserved functional relationships). Implications for human culture and government are also covered along with the recognition that the nation-state is entering its twilight. This suggests that as nonstate actors increase in power relative to the nation-state, they could become a direct security concern; however, this line of thought was not addressed by Clement.

The fourth part discusses survival strategies for contending with a multidimensional world. The information age is envisioned as the first age of the cyberspace era and will require a new form of literacy. Attempts at cyberspace censorship are expected to fail. They

are viewed as a natural reaction from those in positions of power attempting to protect their vested economic interest and social status. This is much like what took place with the church and the Inquisition during the last great quantum jump in human abstraction.

The fifth part provides an epilogue. It suggests that new questions need to be asked to create an epistemology that allows us to function in the cyberspace era. This need is in variance to conventional wisdom that doesn't even acknowledge the existence of such questions. In addition to historical examples of what happened to various European nations during the last quantum jump, the author warns against suppressing the emerging new knowledge.

This important work includes an index but suffers from lack of a bibliography. Even with this slight shortcoming, it should be considered standard reading for those in pursuit of promoting future Army warfighting capabilities.

Project Management Body of Knowledge Questions & Answers

Project Management Institute (PMI), 1997

Reviewed by LTC Kenneth H. Rose (USA, Ret.), Tidewater-Richmond Area Manager for Waste Policy Institute in Hampton, VA, and a former member of the Army Acquisition Corps.

A challenge facing many project managers is not just to develop skill in established procedures, but to gain deeper understanding of the generally accepted knowledge and practices of the project management profession. *Project Management Body of Knowledge Questions & Answers* (PMBOK Q&A) is a handy booklet that facilitates achieving that goal.

The booklet includes 170 questions and answers that address the nine subject areas of PMI's *A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge*, reviewed in the September-October 1998 issue of *Army RD&A*. The questions were developed by a team of project management professionals from PMI's service corps. Questions are grouped in sections by subject area. They are presented in a variety of formats, which keeps the approach fresh and the readers on their toes.

Answers stand apart in a separate section so the reader will not be tempted to glance ahead and short-circuit the benefits of thoughtful reflection. Each answer provides the correct response, a reference to the page and paragraph in the *PMBOK Guide* that contains the foundation information, and a brief discussion of the answer. In some cases, the reference points to a textbook that provides the basis for the question and answer in lieu of the *PMBOK Guide*. The completeness of the answer element makes the booklet a valuable reference for learning or review.

At 3-1/2 by 5-1/2 inches, the spiral-bound booklet fits easily into a briefcase or battle dress uniform pocket. It is designed to be easily transported for use any time, anywhere. Readers should do just that. The booklet does not contain all the questions and answers that a project manager will face. However, those who know these 170 questions and understand the answers will know a lot. They will know more about themselves and will be better able to lead their projects to a successful conclusion.