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Nawal K. Taneja

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BOOK REVIEW

INTRODUCTION TO CIVIL AVIATION

Nawal K. Taneja

Lexington Books, a division of D. C. Heath and Company, has just released the second edition of *Introduction to Civil Aviation* by Dr. Nawal K. Taneja of The Ohio State University. The original 1984 edition of this title was written as a result of the author's perceived need for a university textbook that provided ". . . an overview of the major components of the aviation industry." Although the first edition was highly successful, reader response indicated that international aviation needed additional coverage; Dr. Taneja has addressed that concern as well as streamlined and modified several other portions of the book.

Introduction to Civil Aviation contains nine chapters which include 36 figures and 28 tables. The 261 pages of the book contain historical and contemporary material on the airplane, air traffic control and navigation, airports, the airline industry (both national and international), air-cargo, and general aviation. The lengths of the chapters are well-balanced and the material covered in each section is very comprehensive without being too detailed. The author admits that some areas of the first edition may have been too heavily focused for an overview book and has thus gone out of his way to provide the neophyte reader with a very "user friendly" text.

A portion of the book that is particularly well handled by the author is the chapter on the U.S. airline industry; Taneja has written extensively in this area. He has again provided a comprehensive overview of a dynamic portion of the transportation industry without being too verbose or overly weighing down the written text with meaningless graphs, figures, or tables. In addition, when a table may be somewhat difficult to comprehend, the author has given a clear and easy-to-follow example in the text.

Of particular interest to this reviewer was the section on regional air carriers and the impact of Essential Air Service on civil aviation. The author

has brought together information from many divergent sources and blended it into a succinct and informative review of commuter aviation.

The inclusion of an extensive list of abbreviations, a comprehensive glossary, and an additional selected bibliography will provide the academician or the inquisitive student with much appreciated sources of additional information. In all cases, the reference notes at the end of each chapter read like a "who's who" in aviation.

Criticisms of the textbook are few and only minor in nature. This reviewer would have liked to have discussion questions or key elements included at the end of each chapter. Including such material would allow the student and the instructor to develop a final focus after completing a section.

In addition, the use of color may have been somewhat mismanaged. The center color section (which must have been expensive for the publisher to include) just does not add that much to the overall product; in fact, it appears to be an afterthought. The cover photo is also somewhat of a puzzle. This reviewer wonders why a textbook by a United States publisher, intended for use in this country's collegiate classrooms, and containing an extensive amount of material on this nation's civil aviation industry has a color picture of foreign aircraft, manufactured by a multi-national consortium, with two of the three airplanes bearing the colors of a foreign flag carrier.

However, the *Introduction to Civil Aviation* Second Edition is a textbook that, if not used as the primary source for an introductory aviation class, should be on every professor's bookshelf. It is easy to understand, full of important information, and gives the reader the big picture clearly and concisely. Taneja has done it again!

HRL