

## Paul F. Langer, 1915–2006

Paul F. Langer, a specialist in East Asian politics, Soviet-Asian relations, and revolutionary movements in Asia, and a longtime senior staff member of the RAND Corporation, died on 15 August (Japan surrender day) 2006 in Pacific Palisades, California. Born in Berlin on 11 March 1915, Paul was educated in Paris, Berlin, Tokyo, and New York: École nationale des langues orientales vivantes, École des sciences politiques, University of Paris; Humboldt University of Berlin; Waseda and Tokyo Imperial University; and Columbia University, where he received an MA in 1951 and completed work for the doctorate in 1960.

During the Allied occupation of Japan, Paul worked in censorship. A consummate linguist, Paul spoke all major European languages, Russian, Japanese, Chinese, and Malay. From 1953 to 1956, he was associate director of the Ford Foundation–sponsored project on the Russian impact on Japan at the School of International Relations at the University of Southern California, where he taught international relations from 1958 to 1961. After initially serving as a consultant, he joined RAND as a full-time senior staff member in 1961. For the next twenty years, Paul devoted his career to the study of East Asian politics; communism in Asia; U.S. national security policy; the triangle involving Japan, the Soviet Union, and China; Soviet policies in Asia; and Asian perceptions of the U.S.-Soviet balance of power. During this time Paul also served as visiting professor at the University of California at Los Angeles, the Claremont colleges, and the National Defense College in Tokyo. He received a number of major academic fellowships, including one from the Social Science Research Council. A consultant to the Departments of State and Defense, the Social Science Research Council, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations, Paul played an important role in establishing the International House of Japan. He was an elected member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Trilateral Commission.

Langer's publications include *The Red Flag in Japan: International Communism in Action* (with A. Rodger Swearingen, 1952); *Japanese Communism: An Annotated Bibliography of Works in the Japanese Language, 1921–1952* (1953); *Japanese Training and Research in the Russian Field* (with Peter Berton and A. Rodger Swearingen, 1956); *Japan between East and West* (1957); *Japan: New Problems, New Promises* (1959); *Japan: Yesterday and Today* (1966); *Communism in Japan: A Case of Political Naturalization* (1972); and *The Russian Impact on Japan: Literature and Social Thought* (with Peter Berton and George O. Totten, 1981).

Before he retired from RAND in 1981, Paul wrote numerous classified and nonclassified studies for that organization, including a major study of the Japan Council against A- and H-Bombs, the Japanese civilian nuclear program, the political and social implication of the Japanese space program, science and technology in Japan, Japanese perceptions and the prospective impact of evolving U.S. military doctrines and technologies, U.S.-Japanese cooperation in energy research and development, and the domestic determinants of Japan's national security policy. He also wrote chapters for *Unity and Contradiction* (1962), *Communist Strategies in Asia* (1963); *Communist States at the Crossroads* (1965); *North Vietnam and the Pathet Lao* (1970); *The Communist States in Disarray, 1965–1971* (1972); and *The World and the Great-Power Triangles* (1975).

Paul was an inveterate traveler. His insatiable wanderlust took him around the globe: postcards from Turkmenistan to Timbuktu and from Cairo to Katmandu would arrive at regular intervals on friends' and colleagues' desks. In his mid-fifties, Paul took up marathon running, and he continued running for the next thirty years. Paul is survived by his nephew David Bradnum, a musician and film composer living in London, and his great-nephew Nikolai Tutaev, also a musician. Paul will be missed by his numerous friends and colleagues.

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