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Book Notes

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BOOK NOTES

THE AMERICAN BUSINESS CORPORATION: NEW PERSPECTIVES ON PROFIT AND PURPOSE. Eli Goldston, Herbert C. Morton and G. Neal Ryland, editors. New York: The MIT Press, 1972. 357 pp. \$10.00.

In a period of increasing concern over the responsiveness of the American corporation to the social needs of today's world, the editors have presented an effective comparison of two distinct attitudes about big business.

In the first part of the book the editors review in a scholarly manner several themes of corporate existence. The future of the profit motive, the effect of American corporations on foreign governments and the growing disaffection with the pressures and consequences of industrialization, are some of the things held out as needing change. The second part of the book, on the other hand, presents a more optimistic view of the corporation; the presentation of the American businessman. The businessman feels that the large corporations are making needed responses to the changing times. It is clear, he feels, that these changes include an increased awareness of social responsibility, and that future actions of the corporations in response to the increased awareness may be taken without jeopardizing traditional economic objectives.

DECOLONIZATION: THE ADMINISTRATION AND FUTURE OF THE COLONIES, 1919-1960. Rudolf von Albertini. Garden City: Doubleday & Co., Inc., 1971. 680 pp. \$12.95.

Between 1919 and 1960 the colonial empires of Europe came to an end. Swiss historian, Dr. Rudolph von Albertini, examines this process of "dcolonization," placing primary emphasis not on the events within the colonies, but on the response of the European nations to their loss. In particular he discusses the effect of the demands for independence on Great Britain and France. The emphasis is on a comparison of the divergent philosophies of the two countries. He contrasts the British policy of emancipation and eventual self-government with the French attempt at political and cultural assimilation. Included is a brief discussion of the policies of the smaller European and other colonial nations. The book is an excellent exploration of the sometimes ridiculous and often confusing attitudes of the European nations to their collapsing empires.

CHINA, INDIA, AND THE RUINS OF WASHINGTON. Austin Coates. New York: The John Day Company, 1972. 370 pp. \$10.00.

Mr. Coates has written extensively on the East from insight gained in a long, personal involvement with Asian peoples. While serving in various capacities for the British government since World War II, he has come to know many Asian leaders, including such famous personages as Mahatma Gandhi, and has thereby gained a special understanding of Oriental thinking. This latest work criticizes Western civilization and supremacy thinking; emphasizes China and India as polar examples of humanity; and presents Asian problems in political and moral queries.

The disparity between the East and West is discussed in both an objective analysis and a subjective commentary on the overall frame of reference of Asian peoples. Colonial control of Asia is seen as a dormant period of cultural development. The recent emergence of these cultures is examined in light of historical strengths and struggles.

Another important facet of the book is its contrast of Eastern and Western civilization based on Mr. Coates special insight into the Oriental world. This incisive evaluation of the two cultures is enlightening and gives the book a special significance.

THE MONETARY SIN OF THE WEST. Jacques Rueff, translated by Roger Glémet. New York: The MacMillan Company, 1972. 214 pp. \$6.95.

This well translated work of President de Gaulle's former Minister of Finance, Jacques Rueff, reviews his long standing opposition to the gold-exchange standard, and his many suggestions for improving the international monetary system. The prose is as crisp as a new 5 franc note, even though Mr. Rueff first voiced his opposition to the monetary system of the west in 1961. Much of the material is composed of past articles and interviews involving Mr. Rueff's prognostications on the decline and fall of the American dollar. However, Mr. Rueff is not only a soothsayer, he is a healer as well. Anyone interested in currency exchange problems on the international scene will benefit by pondering his proposed solutions.

STORM OVER THE ARAB WORLD. Eugene M. Fisher and M. Cherif Bassiouni. Chicago: Follett Publishing Co., 1972. 429 pp. \$8.95.

This book is a comprehensive analysis of the history of each Arab state and of the events which have led them individually or collectively to revolution in the twentieth century.

The authors have used their experiences and education in the Arab world to poignantly peer through the mysterious veil that has covered a culture as old as history.

When foreign colonials were forced out of the Arab world after more than a hundred years of domination, the Arab states were left with little more than they had when the foreigners arrived. Upon this threshold of independence stepped improvident policies of the Western powers, the genesis of Arab-Israeli conflict and the Arab revolution.

THE FOREIGN RELATIONS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA. Winberg Chai, editor. New York: Putnam's Sons, 1972. 420 pp. \$7.95.

The coverage in the United States of the recent diplomatic exchanges in the People's Republic of China displays to a great extent ignorance of a wealth of political and cultural tradition in China. Winberg Chai's book is an excellent remedy for such a situation. The book contains sixty-six documents concerning China's foreign relations, ranging from statements on the Sino-Soviet split to statements on ecology.

The primary value of the book lies in its organizational structure; using a topical approach rather than a strictly chronological approach to explanation. The reader can concentrate on certain topical areas, e.g., United States-China relations. Equally important the book contains an introduction and commentaries arranged in the same topical manner which provide a brief but thorough synthesis of the documents.

All too often the American observer scans only the top of the iceberg in his evaluation of relations with other countries. In doing so, the observer ignores the deeply imbued historical context of the other nation.

Views of the Chinese leaders, spokesmen, and press are valuable for the reader, in that they enable him to put aside his ethnocentric perspective in favor of the viewpoint from the other side. It is only through such analysis that diplomatic and cultural exchange can be facilitated on a broader, more competent basis.

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