

# BOOK REVIEWS

In his admirable *Jefferson*, Albert Jay Nock noted that "there are qualities that outweigh occasional and trivial inaccuracy. . . . [A] book should be judged on the scale of its major qualities." Of course, if its inaccuracies are abundant and egregious, a book stands condemned; nothing can save it, not even a dust-jacket blurb by John Kenneth Galbraith. Just such a fiasco is Frances FitzGerald's *America Revised*. Indeed, its fund of the unsupported and the insupportable will likely remain unsurpassed until Garry Wills publishes a sequel to his *Inventing America*.

Growing up in the fifties, Miss FitzGerald genuflected before the authority and solidity of her American-history textbooks: "They were weighty volumes. They spoke in measured cadences: imperturbable, humorless, and as distant as Chinese emperors." What is more, the texts were ideologically "implacable, seamless. . . . For them the country never changed in any important way: its values and its political institutions remained constant from the time of the American Revolution."

Alas, things were to change. The unity and complacency of the Eisenhower years gave way to the dissension and turmoil of the sixties and seventies; and the school texts, "the lightning rods of American society," have dutifully reflected these changes. "Whereas in the fifties all texts represented the same political view [essentially that of the National Association of Manufacturers], current texts follow no pattern of orthodoxy." Ranging from the moderate left to the moderate right, the texts of the past 20 years have taken account of the howling of increasingly numerous and varied citizens' groups and special interests. Newer groups, representing aggrieved Mexican-Americans, American Indians, Asian-Americans, and so on, joined older organizations, such as the NAACP and B'nai B'rith, in a stampede to set up committees that would scrutinize texts for ethnic or religious bias and flay the guilty publishers. If Texans for America could persuade textbook publishers to delete references to Pete Seeger and Langston Hughes, the NAACP could go one better and get the

Alan J. Eade lives in Baltimore, Maryland.

## AMERICA REVISED: HISTORY SCHOOLBOOKS IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Frances FitzGerald / Little, Brown & Co. / \$9.95

Alan J. Eade

Detroit Board of Education to drop a text that favorably depicted slavery. Even feminists made inroads: By the mid-seventies, an in-house manual for Holt, Rinehart & Winston included such gems as "Avoid 'the founding fathers,' use 'the founders'"; and Houghton Mifflin was advising its editors against using "the fatherland" and feminine pronouns for boats.

Gone, too, are the days when texts were exclusively narratives; for the pedagogues were not about to snooze while the political lobbyists were whooping it up at school-board meetings and in the corridors of publishing houses. The latest texts "run from the traditional history sermons, through a middle ground of narrative texts with inquiry-style questions and of inquiry texts with long stretches of narrative, to the most rigorous of case-study books." Such a diversity naturally accompanies the wrangling, both within and without the educationist establishment, of those whom Miss FitzGerald calls the neo-progressives, the fundamentalists, and the mandarins.

Yet, the pedagogical battles have not prevented the post-fifties texts from resembling in their dullness most of their predecessors from the thirties on; indeed, over the past half

century the texts "have achieved dullness." They have achieved it in part, at least for those texts published since 1960, by aping the abstractions and the impersonality of the social sciences. Their dullness follows in larger part, though, from their silences, especially in intellectual history: "it is not only radical or currently unfashionable ideas that the texts leave out—it is all ideas, including those of their heroes." For example, the texts usually mention Tom Paine's influential *Common Sense* "without ever discussing what it says." And "in all the texts since Muzzey's, Henry Clay, John Calhoun, and Daniel Webster are stick figures deprived of speech." Even the Puritans, who made up "that most ideological of communities," get sugared over: The texts portray them "without ever saying what they believed in."

A book so stocked with categorical statements should put the reader on alert. But even the half-asleep reader of *America Revised* should soon despair of the liberties that Miss FitzGerald takes. Her portrait of the texts of the fifties as unfailingly right-wing is absurd and apparently ignores such books as Canfield and

Wilder's *Making of Modern America* (1958), which tops off its chapter on the New Deal with these approving words:

When Roosevelt was elected to the Presidency in 1932, his courage was a tonic to a disheartened people. On the home front he launched a broad program of "relief, recovery, and reform." In the western hemisphere he inaugurated the Good Neighbor policy. When World War II broke out, he led the nation from isolation to an understanding of the issues involved. And when the United States was drawn into the conflict, he became the architect of victory and of plans for future peace.

Readers who wish a discussion of *Common Sense* can start with Wirth's *Development of America* (1944) and Beard's *Making of American Civilization* (1944). Clay, Calhoun, and Webster come to life in many texts, not the least of which is Faulkner and Kepner's *America: Its History and People* (1942). And in Willis and Ruth West's *American People* (1943), students probably learned more than they cared to about the beliefs of the Puritans.

Miss FitzGerald is not content, however, to restrict her blunders to the fifties and to some supposed failings in intellectual history. She writes that "American-history texts gained general currency in the schools only in the eighteen-nineties. Before then, American history was not very widely taught." Thus, she either overlooks or overcomes two of the most often cited studies on 19th-century school history: one that found that at least 100 American-history textbooks were published in 255 editions from 1815 to 1861, and the other that American history was offered in 175 of 235 secondary-school catalogues, chosen from 23 states, issued between 1820 and 1860. (The bibliography in *America Revised* does not list either of these studies; it does include, however, at least one title that, citing the originals, gives these figures.)

Miss FitzGerald, too, can be hard on her heroes. David Saville Muzzey may have been the last of the great stylists; but his "weak point as a historian—his blind spot, in fact—was economic and social history." Especially on the labor movement he draws a blank: In his pioneering *American History* (1911), he makes only "one mention of what he calls 'the laboring class.'" But Muzzey gives more space to labor than Miss



FitzGerald implies. Skeptical readers might go past his index entries under "Labor" to wonder at his humane discussions of the Pullman strike (not referred to under "Labor") and of Teddy Roosevelt's "great respect for the men who go down into the mines, or drive the locomotive across the plains of the West."

Muzzey's colleagues of the second and third decades of the century fare no better by Miss FitzGerald. Their texts represented the immigrants as "nothing more than a problem." In fact, until the Depression, "they gave no information about how these people lived, what they did, or where they came from, much less why they came." Readers of, among other texts, Bourne and Benton's *History of the United States* (1913), Hart's *New American History* (1921), and Beard and Bagley's *History of the American People* (1928) should wince at FitzGerald's preposterous slander.

Approaching the "imperturbable" fifties, Miss FitzGerald stops off in the forties to frolic in fantasy. According to the texts of this decade, "imperialism is a European affair: 'we' have a Monroe Doctrine and a Good Neighbor Policy." The first two texts from this period that I looked into give the lie to such nonsense. Carman, Kimmel, and Walker's *Historic Currents in Changing America* (1942) begins its unit "Imperialism and Reform" with these words: "During the two decades before the [First] World War the United States became an imperial power. . . . A policy of imperialism, although always vigorously criticized, was maintained without much modification for about three decades." And Wirth's *Development of America* begins its chapter "An Imperialistic Foreign Policy" this way: "A series of developments during the last half of the nineteenth century . . . brought the rise of imperialism as the dominant factor in our foreign policy. America began to turn her attention overseas in search of political and economic advantages."

*America Revised* lists badly not only from its load of errors and of distortions but also from its cargo of contradictions and of fatuities. Of these latter two, I have space for only a few examples. The current textbooks that "have achieved dullness" are also "polymorphous-perverse. American history is not dull any longer; it is a sensuous experience." The same books that "follow no pattern of orthodoxy," that in their diversity span a good part of the political spectrum, "differ from one another not much more than one

year's crop of Detroit sedans." According to the texts of the forties, the right to vote is "the foundation stone of democracy": "They [say] that in spite of the fact that this right exists in the Soviet Union and provides no real impediment to the rule of the Communist Party bureaucrats." Because the same texts have titles such as *The Story of America* and *The Story of Our Republic*, they imply that students "must identify with everything that has ever happened in American history." I save the best till last; this is Miss FitzGerald ridiculing a report published by the National Council for the Social Studies:

[The report] makes the utterly dogmatic assertion that "the egalitarian aim of abolishing social classes appears to be unrealistic. . . . The American pattern of social classification with a considerable social mobility offers the best discernible way of sharing power in the interest of justice."

Reviewing *America Revised* in the *New York Review of Books*, C. Vann Woodward congratulated Miss FitzGerald for plowing through the text-

books—"hundreds of them, . . . that endless shelf of textbooks." It turns out, however, that Miss FitzGerald's bibliography lists only about 150 texts (counting all editions); and I cannot convince myself that she has read them all. What she has read she has used, in Professor Woodward's words though not in his sense, "with telling effect." In any event, even 150 falls far short of what Miss Fitz-

Gerald would have needed to support her staggering generalizations.

Of course, none of this precludes *America Revised* from being considered for various national or international awards. But given how rambling and disjointed it is and that it lacks both a table of contents and index, the book may find itself in a strange category, competing with the flowers of "creative writing." □

### ESCAPE FROM SCEPTICISM: Liberal Education as if Truth Mattered

CHRISTOPHER DERRICK

"I found *Escape from Scepticism* a perceptive, witty and engaging account of the present troubled condition of liberal education. Derrick's book offers a disturbing indictment of today's colleges and universities, the fancied dwelling-places of wisdom, for their failure to provide young people with any reasoned defense against the prevalent scepticism of the age or any encouragement to stand against it."

—Nathan M. Pusey, President Emeritus,  
Harvard University

"*Escape from Scepticism* has my vote for Book of the Year!"

—Ron Kennedy, in the *New Zealand Tablet*

"It may seem absurdly pretentious to compare this book with Newman's *Idea of a University*, but the comparison is apt. . . . Derrick has wit and a brilliant aphoristic style. Every sentence is packed with thought. His little book could well serve as a manual . . . for the reform of Catholic higher education today."

—Paul H. Hallett in the *National Catholic Register*

"This is a short book. But it is brilliant and easy to read. If you know any parents of high school or college students, recommend this book to them. If you are such a parent, read it prayerfully. And act upon it."

—Charles E. Rice in *Faith and Reason*

" . . . the author demonstrates a remarkable capacity to present his strongly held views in the most uncompromising fashion, while sparing his reader the tone of arrogance or pontification. The book is simply brilliantly written, in an easy style, reminiscent of that of his famous Oxford tutor [C. S. Lewis]."

—Robert Emmet Moffitt in *New Guard*

"The occasion for *Escape from Scepticism* was a visit to Thomas Aquinas College. The school is significant because it was the first tangible indication of a Catholic educational reformation. It was followed in close succession by Magdalen, Newman, and Christendom Colleges, all dedicated to a fully Catholic education. 'It works,' says Derrick of the kind of education offered by these schools, and so does his book: It works, and it makes sense."

—Karl Keating in *The University Bookman*

□ \$2.95 prepaid □

### ★ JOY WITHOUT A CAUSE: Selected Essays of Christopher Derrick

1940 and the 'Ballad of the White Horse'; A World of Profit and Delight; The Rules of the Game; Pagan for a Dead Liturgy; In Defence of Stagnation; In Defence of Triumphalism; Population or People? It's All Done by Mirrors; Quare Fremuerunt Genes? Do People Matter? The Pageant of Our Redemption; Something Beautiful for God; Liberation and the Gospel; To Feed the Hungry; Assumption Day in Catholic Poland; The Facts of Life; Liturgy and the Consumer; The Word 'Catholic'; Resurrection, Exumenism, and Witness; The Scandal of Particularity; Confitebor Tibi in Guitarra? A Solid Chunk of Wood; Why Bother About Religion?

"Mr. Derrick is a bold man who writes charmingly."

—Russell Kirk in *National Review*

□ 254 pages: \$4.95 prepaid □

### ★ CITIZEN OF ROME: Reflections from the Life of a Roman Catholic

FREDERICK D. WILHELMSSEN

Reacting: Hungary Speaks; Is There a Theology of Survival? Technics and Totalitarianism; Babylonian Meditation; Catholicism Is Right—So Why Change It? In Defence of Sin; Schism, Heresy, and a New Guard. Reflecting: History, Toynbee, and the Modern Mind: Betrayal of the West; Art and Religion: Felicitous Tension or Conflict? The Conservative Vision; Death of the Age of Analysis; Hal-lowed Be Thy World; The Good Earth; Pope as Icon; The Typology of Heresy; The Hour Is Late: The Hour Is Now; Incarnational Politics. Remembering: Captain Guiltiermo Wriedt; Spanish Baroque; The Man Who Went to His Own Funeral; As You Were; Three Days with Mindscenty; Adios: Francisco Franco; Portrait of an Outlaw Hero; A Parting of Friends. Reporting: The Vision of Christopher Dawson; Charlie and Legitimacy; St. Thomas Aquinas; A E I O U. Rejecting: Harvey Cox's Secular City; City of Night; Leslie Duwart: Hellene or Heretic? Redeeming: Why I Am a Catholic; The Sovereignty of Christ or Chaos; Christmas in Christendom. Rejoicing: The Miracle of Wine.

□ 352 pages: \$5.95 prepaid □

### A BETTER GUIDE THAN REASON: Studies in the American Revolution

M. E. BRADFORD

with an Introduction by Jeffrey Hart

"The publication of Professor Bradford's essays in a single volume represents something of a milestone in contemporary conservative thought."

—Samuel T. Francis in *The University Bookman*

"Bradford's angle of vision is unique and so challenging that it will doubtless stir controversy even among conservatives. . . . But whatever the reader's conclusions . . . he can hardly fail to be impressed by this subtly crafted and trenchantly argued volume."

—M. Stanton Evans in *National Review*

"M.E. Bradford has produced an excellent book on the meaning of the American political tradition. . . . an invaluable antidote to the modern descent into secularism and statism."

—John P. East in *New Oxford Review*

" . . . Bradford brings to bear a unique combination of skills and perspectives, principally those of the political theorist, literary critic, textual analyst, and historian. What emerges are provocative and challenging propositions."

—George W. Carey in *National Review*

"Bradford is surely a consummate stylist; the prose within this beautifully produced book fairly sparkles; is graceful, yet muscular. The scholarship . . . is impeccable."

—D.R. Buxton in *The Dallas Morning News*

□ cloth: \$12.95; paper: \$4.95 prepaid □

### ★ BEYOND DETENTE: Toward an American Foreign Policy PAUL EIDELBERG

" . . . far and away the best, and most constructive, critique of Détente I have read . . ."

—The Hon. Clare Boothe Luce

"In dissecting with surgical precision the nature of our current foreign policy and the reasons for its development, Dr. Eidelberg spells out with frightening clarity just how dangerously bad it really is, and how essential it is that it be changed before it is too late. . . . Cautionary note: One does not curl up with this book; one wrestles with it. It makes great demands on the reader—but it repays him many times over. In this reviewer's opinion, it is a virtuoso performance."

—Vice Admiral Ruthven E. Libby, USN (Ret.)  
in *Strategic Review*, United States Strategic Institute

□ cloth: \$12.95 prepaid □

### ★ DYNAMICS OF WORLD HISTORY by CHRISTOPHER DAWSON

Edited by John J. Mulloy

"Christopher Dawson is perhaps the most thoughtful, stimulating, and suggestive historian of the Catholic faith who in this century has devoted himself to the general history of civilization. He is more down to earth and convincing than Spengler or Toynbee. . . . This is a book which no thoughtful historian can safely ignore, and it is as timely as it is illuminating."

—Harry Elmer Barnes  
in *The American Historical Review*

"It is difficult to think of any . . . writer who has made so laborious and scrupulous an attempt as Dawson to understand the widest variety of social phenomena without denaturing them in terms of something other than they are. His extraordinary range of learning is seen in two essays here on St. Augustine and Gibbon, which in their perspicacity and richness of reference are, I think, the best studies of their subjects in English."

—Martin Wight in *The Observer* (London)

□ 509 pages: \$7.95 prepaid □

★  
Forthcoming: (summer & fall of 1980):

*Poets and the Prophetic Poet: Why Flannery O'Connor Stayed Home.*  
Vol. I of a trilogy by Marion Montgomery  
*The Impatience of Job* by George William Rutler  
*The Generations of the Faithful Heart: On the Literature of the South*  
by M.E. Bradford  
*C.S. Lewis and the Church of Rome* by Christopher Derrick



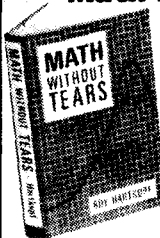
Sherwood Sugden & Company

1117 E. Eighth Street, La Salle, Illinois 61301

SAVE YOUR GAS! BEAT INFLATION!  
Roam the world by freighter at savings of  
at least 50% . . . Deluxe accommodations

**TravLTips**  
Dept. F105 163-09 Depot,  
Flushing, NY 11358

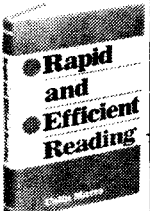
### Math Without Tears



Using non-technical language and a light touch Roy Hartkopf gives you a basic understanding of many everyday applications of mathematics. He takes the reader from simple counting to trigonometry and calculus, emphasizing the practical aspects of math. Humorously written. Learn math in the comfort of your own home at minimum cost.  
\$8.95 plus 95¢ handling

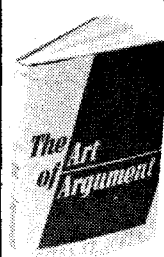
### Triple your Reading Speed—Now!

Here is a solid, fact-packed, clear, concise basic guide to high-speed reading; by a noted reading specialist who has helped thousands to read much, much faster—yet understand better, remember more! Mares tells you which reading habits to eliminate, which to cultivate and how to do both. The benefits of this book begin the very first hour—they will last all the rest of your life. \$7.95



\$7.95 plus 95¢ handling

### How to Argue and Win!



Here is a clear simply written basic guide to logical thinking, showing how to spot the fallacies, the prejudices and emotionalism, etc., in the other fellow's argument and how to watch for and avoid the irrational in your own judgments. The author makes plain not only how but also why people resist facing the truth.

A tool for clear thinking as well as convincing others. \$7.95 plus 95¢ handling  
THE ART OF ARGUMENT. By Giles St. Aubyn  
No handling charge on 3 books or more!  
Dept. 903-E Buchanan, NY 10511  
EMERSON BOOKS, INC.  
10-Day Money-Back Guarantee



ON A CLEAR DAY  
YOU CAN SEE GENERAL MOTORS  
J. Patrick Wright / Wright Enterprises / \$12.95

Brock Yates

You of course recall Detroit. It is a large, dingy city in southern Michigan noted for the manufacturing of automobiles, epic race riots, and a long list of cultural titans headed by Diana Ross and the Supremes. Within the perimeters of its monochromatic, working-class neighborhoods and sprawling assembly plants lie the headquarters of the General Motors Corporation, which qualifies, by any number of financial measurements, as the largest private industrial concern in the world. The building itself is a 1920sexpression of the bold and the baroque: a stony leviathan jutting above the flat landscape in a proper Midwestern expression of restrained pomposity. In the automobile business, the 14th floor of the GM building is synonymous with raw

Brock Yates is the editor and publisher of the Cannonball Express, a journal of automotive news and opinion.

power. Here sit, in presumed splendor, the clear-eyed, Machiavellian tycoons who pull the levers that control the largest, most complex, most socially influential concentration of free enterprise known to man. The goings-on within these hushed corridors and paneled suites are a source of fascination for outsiders. How far do the tentacles of this mega-corp extend? What manner of latter-day Morgan and Gould are the Chairman, the President, and their proconsul elite of Group Vice Presidents? How unfold the intrigues, the diabolical internecine warfare, the cabals and alliances necessary to ascent to the supreme position, that of Chairman of the Board?

For years, such questions have gnawed at GM-watchers, who imagine that behind the gray stone walls rage massive battles for power befitting the Kremlin or the Vatican. But not so, says a one-time insider named John Zachary DeLorean. Rather, the 14th floor of the General Motors

Building is populated by dullards and poltroons whose lives are propelled only by urges to shuffle trivia-laden volumes of paper and to preserve the orderly, moss-laden bureaucracy which brought them to power. According to DeLorean, GM's major-domos sometimes sleep during long briefing sessions, indelicately snoring at key moments while others yawn. They are secretive and paranoid about government intervention and maintain an elephant-like fear of the ravages of the consumerist mice. They like short haircuts, white shirts, and dull suits. They mumble about "team play" a great deal. To a man they seem to have a boredom threshold that would shame a musk ox.

DeLorean's opinions are recorded in a rather confusingly authored book titled *On a Clear Day You Can See General Motors*, by business journalist J. Patrick Wright. DeLorean declined to have the book printed under his by-line for fear that it might impede his efforts to manufacture an automobile under his own name. After some wrangling, Wright decided to go ahead with the project without DeLorean's imprimatur. To his credit, Wright mortgaged everything to publish the book himself and turned it into a solid best-seller.

For many years, John Z. DeLorean was the *Wunderkind* of GM, a man who appeared (thanks, in part, to his own carefully managed image-building) to be equal parts Leonardo da Vinci, Albert Schweitzer, Henry Ford, and Cary Grant, at least to the automoguls who bed down in the posh, but parochial, Detroit suburb of Bloomfield Hills. DeLorean was part of the winning team that boosted the Pontiac Division of GM from a manufacturer of fusty, maiden-aunt's vehicles to the racy glories of "Wide Tracks" and "Tigers." He then took over as general manager of the flagship division, Chevrolet, which was in a sales doldrum and entangled in serious organizational rats' nests. Within a few years he had the business booming again and seemed as surely destined for leadership in GM as Edward, Prince of Wales, was destined for the English throne.

Alas, both worthies were waylaid on their ways to glory. Childe Edward was downed by Cupid's arrow and the lusts of Mrs. Simpson. DeLorean, or so he claims, was cut off at the knees by a consortium of yahoo Rotarians who feared that his managerial brilliance, coupled with his glittering social conscience, might

(continued on page 39)

Would You Like to Write for 4,000,000  
Readers Across America?

A Call for Eassays From  
Public Research, Syndicated

Public Research, Syndicated (P.R.S.) is a newspaper syndication service for America's "community" newspapers (circulations under 100,000). Each week more than 500 of these papers receive from P.R.S. an article written by a scholar or expert in the field of politics, economics, history, law, military affairs, or literature. Some of these articles deal with current issues and policies; others with historical, philosophical or literary topics which have a bearing on the fundamental ideas underlying current public policies and public opinion generally. The overarching purpose of P.R.S. articles is to illuminate and to defend the principles of free government, which too often are obscured or discredited in contemporary journalism.

P.R.S. has already distributed to its affiliated newspapers articles by scholars and professionals such as Eugene Rostow, Harry V. Jaffa, Forrest McDonald, Martin Gilbert, P.T. Bauer, Hon. Daniel P. Moynihan, Hon. Thomas Hagedorn, Carnes Lord, G.B. Tennyson, Hon. Calvin Coolidge, Harold Rood, L.H. Gann, Samuel T. Francis, Duncan Clark, Ernest Lefever, Peter Duignan, Joseph Horton, Donald Kirchoff, Werner Dannhauser, Vladislov Krasnov, Robert Wesson and Elmo Zumwalt. We encourage you to join them in writing for our syndication service.

Articles should be between 800-1200 words and should avoid professional jargon. We pay an honorarium for each article accepted. Please submit manuscripts to Mr. Christopher Flannery, Editor, P.R.S., 225 Yale Avenue, Suite E, Claremont, CA 91711.



P.R.S. is a publicly supported, non-profit corporation under Section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code. For a free copy of our 1979 annual report please write to Mr. Stephen Cambone, Vice-President, P.R.S., 225 Yale Avenue, Suite E, Claremont, CA 91711.

# The future's not what it used to be.



Something's going on. The world is in ferment. It's a new moment in American life, characterized by a welcome dose of realism. The pendulum of ideas is swinging again.

That's the view of BEN WATTENBERG'S 1980, a new 10 part series on PBS. Every week, your guide through these new ideas is Ben Wattenberg, a man of many parts: part statistician, part politician, author and activist, participant and pontificator, student of America with a star spangled sense of humor.

Premiere Show

POWER SHIFT: The Soviet Arms Build Up

The Soviet Union is embarked on the greatest peacetime military build-up in all history. What does it mean to us? Their ships used to make up a coastal defense force. But now they have a "blue water navy," and a good one. See what they're up to from the decks of our own U.S.S. Forrestal.

Beginning Sunday, May 18  
on most PBS stations

Check your local listings for date and time.



Produced for PBS by WETA Washington, D.C. with grants from The Dow Chemical Company, Conoco Inc. and The LTV Corporation.