

"Among School Children"). A tall dovecone rises through the distant greenery, and from time to time out of its dormers a swarm of doves suddenly starts up, wheels about the sky in a widening gyre, then narrows and closes to fly across the garden and perch for a time on the eaves and crenellations of the Walthatch before rising again as one, curling into the upper air, and returning to their home. In the garden, seated in front of an abundance of sky-blue hydrangeas, sits the first and last of the Oxford Inklings illuminating every topic he discusses, including even the behavior of doves.

Owen Barfield: A Profile will not be coming soon to a theatre near you. For one thing, it is still not fully edited (such is the curse of amateurs who have limited time and money) and for another it will be a video. But one day it will be available on tape, and Criticus will see that you hear about it, so that you too can enjoy, live and on location, Barfield Without Tears. CPR

BOOKS

The Decade of Greed That Wasn't

What Went Right With The 1980s, by Richard B. McKenzie, Pacific Research Institute for Public Policy, San Francisco, 1993, 397 pages, \$21.95, cloth.

Reviewed by Peter Hannaford

NOT LONG after Ronald Reagan left the White House to retire to California, the American left began an intense campaign to discredit his successful record. Why? After all, the record was there for everyone to see: the longest unbroken

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peacetime economic expansion in the nation's history (with nearly 19 million new jobs created), coupled with a national defense rebuilding strategy that proved to be the straw that broke the Soviet Union's back.

On the economic side, the answer lies in the left's enduring belief that prosperity is finite and that one person can prosper only if another suffers. If one believes this, it is but a short step to attributing entrepreneurial enterprise and personal drive to a base motive: greed. To prove the point, leftist commentators cited Wall Street's leveraged buyout and junk bond fever and the excesses of some savings-and-loan moguls. The "proof" rested on cases involving relatively few people and it has been little noted that most of these were generous contributors not to Reagan and the Republicans but to the Democrats, who wooed them ceaselessly.

Nevertheless, the left, abetted by liberals in the media, coined the phrase "Decade of Greed" to describe the Eighties and built a series of myths on selective statistics. Now comes Richard B. McKenzie, the Walter B. Gerken professor of Enterprise and Society at the University of California's Irvine campus, to examine the myths dispassionately and tell us where the truth lies. Professor McKenzie is no card-carrying Reaganite, despite the defensive

book title and cover art showing Reagan with this sleeves rolled up. Just the same, Reagan supporters will welcome his reasoned conclusions, supported as they are by ample data.

MCKENZIE IS even-handed. For example, take the left-liberal article of faith that the economic growth of the 1980s was bought at the cost of "mortgaging our children's future" through increased federal debt. He writes, "The reasons usually given for the rising public debt burden depend largely on political persuasion: federal income tax rates on the rich were dramatically lowered (the Democrats' favored explanation) or federal expenditures continued to rise with abandon (the Republicans' favored explanation). A more politically neutral explanation is that public debt soared because the Federal Reserve did not (or could not) inflate it away as it had done during the previous three decades (especially during the 1970s)." The author points out that the federal budget deficit, as a percentage of total U.S. production, went from six per cent down to three by the end of the decade.

At the same time, Americans were increasing their charitable giving. The annual growth rate of giving in the Eighties, in real terms, was nearly 5.5 percent higher than in the previous quarter century. Individual giving reached \$102 billion in 1989, after expanding at a compounded rate of 5.2 percent between 1980 and 1989, according to McKenzie.

HE DIVIDES the book into nine easy-to-digest chapters: "Reality is Tricky," "The Misunderstood 'Decline of America'," "The Decade



of Greed That Wasn't," "Politics of the Rich and Poor: Incomes," "Politics of the Rich and Poor: Expenditures," "The Dance With the Debt Devil," "Retreat of the Part-Time Economy," "The Reagan Record," "The Bright Side of Government Deficits."

Contrary to the prophets of decline (not all of them on the political left) who have been much in evidence in recent years, McKenzie sees more prosperity ahead. He cites several disparate reasons: Americans are less parochial and more global in their thinking, the microchip has

enhanced problem solving, the prices of most basic raw resources are falling, and the Cold War has ended.

What Went Right in the 1980s adds up to a much-needed reality check by a scholar without an axe to grind.

CPR

Popular Culture

Hollywood's Line On Witch Hunts

A Change in the Wind?

T. R. O'Neill-Lopez

GOOD VILLAINS and their long-suffering, innocent victims make good drama which is why the blacklist hearings, or "McCarthyite witch hunts," along with a German National Socialist regime extinct since 1945, are still among the film community's favorite heavies. One would think, under the circumstances, that the entertainment business, and liberals overall, would be favorably disposed toward victims of witch hunts in general. Columbia University psychiatry Professor Richard Gardner, for instance, a man deeply concerned about the current fad of discovering child abuse under every rug, is trying to draw attention to the sort of parallel that normally sends Hollywood liberal temperatures soaring toward the boiling point. The Unit-

ed States, he says, is witnessing "its third great wave of hysteria." Gardner identifies the Salem witch trials as the first and the "McCarthy mania" as the second. The third, he says, is the current hysteria over child abuse, which, "is by far the worst with regard to the number of lives that have been destroyed and families that have disintegrated." An irresistible Hollywood story line, right? Wrong.

The root of the problem is a crisis in the therapy industry. It has long been clear that this tawdry trade, though it makes some people wealthy, rests on pseudo-science and doesn't actually help anybody. Even *Time*, whose true competition is now *People*, wonders, "Is Freud Dead?"

Increasingly under fire, the therapists have come up with a new product, "memory work," which, riding side-saddle on feminist ideology, wields this double-edged dia-

lectic: If you think you were abused, you were; if you think someone is an abuser, they are. It's the perfect bromide for tinsel town: Are you unhappy? Don't fret; it's someone else's fault. It comes as no surprise that Roseanne Arnold and other "stars" have claimed they were sexually abused as children, and that such abuse is the source of whatever *malaise* they may encounter after discovering that money and fame cannot buy happiness.

AS K.L. BILLINGSLEY noted in *CPR* ("San Diego's Government-Sponsored Child-Abuse Industry," Spring 1993) several people in the Golden State, such as James Wade, a Navy man accused of raping his own daughter, have learned that to be the target of a child-abuse witch hunt is no fun. Wade's daughter maintained that an intruder had done it, until a "therapist," Kathleen Goodfriend of La Mesa, brain-

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