

Cox (Doubleday. \$7.50) is as unorthodox a volume on race relations as has appeared in the U.S. No brief review here can do more than indicate the controversial nature of its material. The chapters on race brutally attack such conventional theories of race prejudice as that it is an outgrowth of ethnocentrism, or "in the mores," or a manifestation of caste. Dr. Cox sets up the social scientists in turn—W. Lloyd Warner, John Dollard, Gunnar Myrdal, etc.—and gives them battle. His own theory, Marxian but unorthodox, is that prejudice derives from economic exploitation and will be resolved only by revolution. Heavily documented, the book is provocative and stimulating even when the reader disagrees with it.

People vs. Property, by Herman H. Long and Charles S. Johnson (Fisk University Press. Cloth, \$1.50; paper, \$1), reports research on race-restrictive housing covenants; shows in detail the working of neighborhood associations, real estate agencies, and financial institutions in blocking areas of expansion for Negro housing. The book also reviews forms of legal relief available, and the overall prospect of frictionless adjustment if and when restrictions are abrogated. On the human and psychological side, the tone is liberal, informed, and wholly admirable.

Lost Boundaries, by W. L. White (Harcourt, Brace. \$1.50), is the true story of one American family as revealed to the author principally by one member, whom the shock of revelation that his parents

were part Negro, and "passing," hit the hardest. Popular and brilliant as a student, this youngster was demoralized to the point of psychoneurosis. Fear of the unknown (being a Negro) was cured by living in Negro communities. Full release, through acceptance and identification, was won later by telling his Dartmouth student friends that he was a Negro.

Herbert Aptheker, in *To Be Free* (International Publishers. \$3), a study in American Negro history, uncovers much that has been forgotten, ignored, or disavowed in events before, during, and after the Civil War. Tireless in research, this author has dug out letters, reports, official statements, and enactments of legislation that throw new light on the Negro's part in the fight for freedom and the course taken by white Northerners as well as Southerners to nullify what was won in 1865 and years following.

Edith J. R. Isaacs, as author of *The Negro in the American Theatre* (Theatre Arts. \$3.50), writes from close knowledge of her theme; she was editor of Theatre Arts magazine from 1919-1945 and has a long record as promoter of better theatre and as inspiration of new talent and fresh dramatic trends. Such was the new role for Negro actors, a break with the burlesque tradition, sparked by Ridgely Torrence in 1914. Build on a folk foundation, is Mrs. Isaac's advice. A complete story of the movement is here with data on actors, occasions, and authorship of plays.

LEADERS AND THE PEOPLE

Eagle Forgotten is the Centennial Edition (re-issue) of Harry Barnard's life of John Peter Altgeld, the German-born immigrant who became Governor of Illinois,

twice risking his political career because of his passionate belief in justice and civil rights (Duell, Sloan and Pearce. \$5). This is a forthright biography of the man and

his time. Inevitably, too, it is the political history of a period that saw bitter clashes in the struggle between newly organized labor and deeply entrenched industrial interests. Capital, then, even more than now, was backed by the law, the press, and the government, and when Altgeld pardoned the Haymarket Riot anarchists and when he stood up against President Cleveland in the case of the Pullman strike, he had to face the bitterest kind of vituperation and vilification. Barnard's book is an exhaustive account of these and every other major crisis during the career of this man of the people, who needs to be far better known by Americans generally.

Frank Kingdon's *Architects of the Republic* (Beechhurst. \$3.50) discusses four of our greatest leaders: Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, and Franklin Roosevelt. In view of their length, the four biographies (averaging 70 pages each) are surprisingly complete, free of cant, yielding sane and sound estimates of what made these men national leaders. The tone and content have an unerring appeal for the lay reader. As an instance of the luminous line, read this on F.D.R.: "... the same gift as Jefferson for perceiving the truly democratic essence of every problem . . . much of Lincoln's gift for making issues come to life in the plain language of the people."

Heirs Apparent, by Klyde H. Young and Lamar Middleton (Prentice-Hall. \$3.75), invites comparison with Kingdon's book. Kingdon pointed out that great presidents have not been paragons, just human persons, but they did have, either as a gift, or they developed under stress, outstanding qualities of leadership. Of the thirty-four vice-presidents considered here (some of whom were later presidents), few had such qualities. Most appear to have been chosen as party favorites. The story of their lives makes instructive political history for 1948.

The Disruption of American Democracy, by Roy Franklin Nichols (Macmillan. \$7.50), carries a warning even more pointed and is the most arresting historical work on our list this quarter. Divisive attitudes that culminated in the Civil War formed a political pattern that is in danger of being repeated today. Professor Nichols' analysis of it gives us a clear picture of the forming of this pattern from 1856-61, the failure of leaders to restrain it or even to grasp the causes and perceive that our Union must be cultural as well as political. The same failure is apparent today, not only in our party leadership but in the counsels of the UN.

Karl Lehmann of New York University (Fine Arts Professor) brings to his study of *Thomas Jefferson, American Humanist* (Macmillan. \$4.50) a wealth of familiarity with classical arts and philosophies, a deep knowledge of the humanist tradition; so that the Jefferson we may have thought of chiefly as a leader and founder of the democratic tradition becomes a new figure, drawn on a far larger scale. The conception of cultural unity (lack of which, in leaders after Jefferson, led to the tragic events of 1861 and a rift still unhealed) is broad as humanity, extensive as time. This man conversed with the ancients. Their writings "furnished him with experience extended beyond his natural range." Yet who was more alive to the immediate issues of his day, more adept at meeting them?

Democracy and Progress, by David McCord Wright (Macmillan. \$3.50), deals with a conflict between two opposed ideas of human welfare and how to assure it. One calls for a static order of government and a fixed social pattern, no dissent allowed; the other is flexible, provides for growth or change, fosters a free creative spirit in all fields. In favor of the second form, the author discusses both from the point of view of a social economist.

Carl Van Doren's *The Great Rehearsal* (Viking. \$3.75), a day-to-day story of the making and ratifying of the Constitution of the United States, points the parallel between 1787 and 1948, shows how the arguments for and against a federal system and the sharp struggle in which the Constitution was ratified bear on UN problems and world government now. The body of the book is occupied with that fateful contest: whether we should remain only a confederation of sovereign states or be-

come one nation. Application of the moral is left to the reader.

Henry A. Wallace's *Toward World Peace*, a small but compact book (Reynal & Hitchcock. \$1.75), is the statement of what he stands for and believes in. By the daily press we are kept "informed" on what Wallace is and thinks, yet we read but four pages of his book and find that much of this has been misinformation. It is only fair that we learn from the man himself what his views are.

A COMMON GOAL FOR FAITHS AND RACES

While Mordecai Kaplan writes of the *Future of the American Jew* (Macmillan. \$6), his forecast includes a plan that applies to all minorities, with a common goal for all groups in a pattern of diversity and a framework of democratic freedom. That goal is self-fulfillment of each member of society through an inner freedom won only when the distinctive values of his or her group are recognized. For his own group he predicts that this can be attained through unified effort and the founding of true communities, the purpose of which is "to make the collective spirit of the group and its accumulated cultural resources contribute to the self-fulfillment of every one of its members." A sense of the wholeness of humanity pervades this deeply discerning book.

Contributors to a symposium, *The Christian Way in Race Relations*, edited by William Stuart Nelson (Harper. \$2.50), agree that Western Christianity has failed to live up to its creed, almost ceases to be a moral force in the world, and harbors even within its churches social attitudes neither Christian nor ethical in any sense. In hope of a reawakening, they stress such imperatives as right rela-

tions across race lines. They agree that current treatment of the Negro is denial of the churches' creed; that the gospel of success has become a quasi-moral ideal, and personal complacency a dominant trait. They look to active organizations outside the churches, but allied with them, to spearhead a renewal in the Christian way. But one finds no hint here that the Christian way ties in with any broad cultural plan like that of Dr. Kaplan.

One finds in Abram Vossen Goodman's *American Overture* (Jewish Publication Society. \$3) proof that cultural values were recognized, locally, in colonial times. Catholic, Lutheran, and other dissenting sects are in the scope of this survey of testings of civil and religious liberties. Surprisingly, concessions to Jews first breached the Puritan citadel of intolerance. A Yale president went beyond "tolerance" to positive cultural and social relations. The causes of retrogression since that day will be found fully disclosed in Carey McWilliams' *A Mask for Privilege*, reviewed elsewhere in this issue.

The Price of Liberty, by Nathan Schachner (American Jewish Committee. \$3.50), tells of forty years of active effort by a