

sense of cultural and national unity, and although at one point Slovenia sought to merge with Austria after acquiring its freedom from Marxist controlled Yugoslavia, this was rejected by Austria.

A final chapter traces the impact of the nationalist 1989 "revolution" which brought freedom from the Soviet Union, but regrettably fails to discuss the future of middle Europe in a continent increasingly dominated by the concept of European union. Nevertheless, well supported by historical maps, the volume provides a very useful historical background to an area which has had a vital and important past, but whose future still remains murky and hard to predict, situated as it is between two unpredictable giants – the still tottering and infant European Union of western Europe, and the tottering but still-existing Russian giant which remains a dominant military power overshadowing eastern Europe.

Tibet: Endurance of the National Idea

Stephen R. Bowers & Eva M. Neterowicz

Council for Social and Economic Studies, Washington D.C. 1995

A thoroughly up-to-date history of the fate of Tibet since the Chinese invasion in 1950. Totally unable to prevent a Chinese military takeover of their country, the small and outdated Tibetan army initially put up a valiant resistance, which did little to even delay the Chinese army influx. Historic monastic treasure houses of Tibetan culture, of great historical value since the country had never been subjugated to external rule (other than mild Chinese suzerainty in past centuries), were levelled by modern artillery fire, monks as the intelligentsia of this peaceful Buddhist nation were executed whenever they sought to resist the conversion of their national culture into that of an alien Marxist regime, while the outside world, including even India, was too intimidated by the Chinese goliath to intervene.

Of particular interest is the chapter entitled "Tibet in the post-Maoist Era." More recently, Beijing has attempted to seduce the Tibetan Buddhist intelligentsia to support its own creed of political philosophy by rebuilding a limited number of monasteries for the limited number of monks who are willing to sell their intellectual freedom for economic survival. These new monasteries are not

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imbued with the historic accumulation of the Tibetan past, but are purely modern constructions devoid of any true cultural value – a political ploy to undercut Tibetan independence of thought and absorb Buddhist irredentism into the prevailing political scene.

This has not prevented further efforts by Tibetan laymen and the surviving traditional monks to demonstrate their plea for more intellectual freedom, which demonstrations continue to be brutally suppressed according to reports coming out of Tibet. Unfortunately the UN array of international debating bodies and agencies, designed to prevent exactly this kind of oppression, has allowed Chinese aggression in Tibet to go unchecked by the UN and the outside world. The UN has been a very costly experiment, and its total unwillingness to act in respect of Tibet must be seen as yet another of its failures.

AIDS Today, Tomorrow:

An Introduction to the New HIV Epidemic in America

Robert Searles Walker

Humanities Press International, New Jersey. 1991

In a broad-based introduction to the multiple issues generated by the AIDS epidemic, Dr. Walker utilizes a wide range of data culled from diverse sources in an integrated, manageable way to produce this coherent synthesis. It is aimed directly at students taking courses dealing with contemporary social issues, sociology, social anthropology and sexually transmitted diseases and will also be useful to those educated readers who are curious to understand the epidemic.

HIV has only been known to the Western world for about 40 years. Originating in remote villages of sub-Saharan Africa, it must have been carried by migrants to the more developed world. Its first impact in the United States, leading to the death of a young person, mystified the medical world. However, samples of his tissue and blood were stored, and as the disease spread through American cities in the 1980s, and came to be identified, so it was revealed that he had died of AIDS.

For a long period, Asia remained very little affected, possibly