

Ironically, as Britain, in the wake of that case, moves toward greater rights of disclosure for former government officials, this country is moving in the opposite direction. The same "confidence" requirements waived by the British court in the Crossman case were strengthened in the U.S. in 1979 in the Frank Snepp case, and are being tightened further under Reagan.

The second part is a more directly cautionary tale. The imagery Evans uses to depict Murdoch in London evokes that of Hitler in the Sudetenland: appeasement, a "putsch," brutal henchmen, broken promises, the big lie, and pledges of editorial independence that are—in Murdoch's own words—"not worth the paper they're written on."

Evans moves easily from playing Chamberlain to Churchill without ever really admitting he was duped when he accepted the editorship under Murdoch, allowing only that his mistake had been "I put the paper first and [didn't] protect my back." This rings about as true as the assurances of selflessness in another set of memoirs, which Evans edited—Henry Kissinger's.

But his indictment is persuasive nonetheless. While Murdoch doesn't put cheesecake and "Headless Body" and "Topless Bar" headlines in all his papers, he also won't keep his mitts off. Poor Colonel McCormack. With Murdoch's purchase of the *Chicago Sun-Times*, the *Chicago Tribune* is now that city's liberal paper.

—Jonathan Alter

The Heyday of American Communism: The Depression Decade. Harvey Klehr. *Basic Books*, \$26.50. There's a lesson for rigid ideologues on both sides of the political spectrum in Klehr's exhaustive survey of the American Communist party in the 1930s. By ignoring practical solutions and following the Moscow party line, the party alienated potential supporters. Sympathetic intellectuals like Edmund Wilson and John Dos Passos were called, among other things, "journalistic cooties";

members of the American Federation of Labor were branded "social-fascists"; and Roosevelt's New Deal was nothing more than "developed fascism." Membership rose initially, but the mud-slinging and subservience to Moscow ensured only a short-lived success. By 1938, membership had dropped in half to 50,000.

—James Gibney

In Banks We Trust: Bankers and Their Close Associates: the CIA, the Mafia, Drug-traders, Dictators, Politicians, and the Vatican. Penny Lernoux. *Anchor Press*, \$16.95. This is an uneven book that draws too frequently from magazine and newspaper clips. Lernoux finds banker perfidy everywhere—from Australia to Southeast Asia to the Vatican. What she doesn't find is a clear focus for her unsettling tales of drug traffickers, CIA agents, right-wing mercenaries, and con men in three-piece suits. Perhaps Lernoux, the talented reporter on Latin America for the *Nation*, should have stuck to the relationship between big banks and Latin America, because this section of the book is the most compelling.

—Ronald Brownstein

The Reconstruction of Patriotism. Morris Janowitz. *University of Chicago Press*, \$22.50. This brilliant book will probably be overlooked by most people, not just for its rather old-fashioned title but for the author's dense writing style. It's a pity. Janowitz, a sociologist at the University of Chicago who is well-known for his works on military culture, addresses a seminal issue: how to restore the sense of shared civic responsibility that has fallen victim in recent years to our growing preoccupation with individual rights and the rise of special-interest groups.

Among Janowitz's remedies are a total revamping of social studies curricula in our schools and a redirection of most efforts at bilingual education. But central to his prescription is the revival of the concept of the citizen soldier, whose importance since pre-Revolutionary War days Janowitz

discusses at length. He concludes, "There can be no reconstruction of patriotism without a system of national service."

Familiar as the themes may be to some *Monthly* readers, this is an important book. I highly recommend it.

—P.K.

Ronald Reagan's Reign of Error. Mark Green, Gail MacColl, eds. *Pantheon*, \$4.95. In the world according to Reagan, Italian fascism inspired the New Deal, Karl Marx designed the progressive tax system, and Trident missiles can be recalled after they are launched. Once, Reagan even claimed that any criminal found with a gun in England was tried for first-degree murder and hanged if found guilty. Not true, but, as Larry Speakes said, "It's a good story, though."

The trouble is, nobody notices anymore whether the stories are true or not. Blunders that Reagan made during the early days of his administration used to be front-page news to *The Washington Post*. Today they're relegated to the bottom of Lou Cannon's once-a-week column, if they're printed at all. This book provides a needed reminder of how bad—and how frequent—those misstatements and distortions can be.

—Kurt Eichenwald

Oswald's Game. Jean Davison. *Norton*, \$17.95. Davison knits the two predominant JFK assassination theories—conspiracy vs. lone assassin—together into a loose, yet fairly plausible, weave: The CIA was plotting to kill Castro, who knew it, and said so in an interview that appeared in the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*. Along came Lee Harvey Oswald, a Castro fanatic, resident of New Orleans, and avid reader of the *Times-Picayune*. Oswald appointed himself Castro's protector and preempted the assassination of the Cuban leader by killing Kennedy. Then the CIA and Castro confused the bungling Warren Commission by covering up their activities leading up to—and denying foreknowledge of—the assassination.

—Emily Lazar

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