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a 1949 economics graduate of Boston University. Tsai became a stock market superstar, but he was an atypical exotic in a city whose conservative modern bankers favor a safe return. It was not always so. Adventure, risk, and profit all ran high in the days of the slavers and the China trade, before Boston's old Yankee blood cooled and turned blue.

**THE HISTORY OF THE  
GERMAN RESISTANCE  
1933-1945**

by Peter Hoffman  
M.I.T., 1977, 847 pp. \$19.95  
L of C 76-0824  
ISBN 0-262-08088-5

World War II had scarcely ended when the story of German resistance to Hitler began to come to light. Each successive memoir and monograph brought the intricate picture more sharply into focus. But since the resistance was, during its most critical phases, organized in closed compartments, and since those persons most knowledgeable about the whole were executed by Hitler, the task of historical reconstruction has been difficult. Hoffman's absorbing account, first published in German eight years ago, spans the period from the 1938 Sudeten crisis to the final abortive attempt by Colonel Claus Schenk Graf von Stauffenberg on Hitler's life on July 20, 1944. It makes sense of the tangle of evidence that has come down to us. Is it the last word on the techniques of conspiracy and the complex personalities of the men and women who overcame their own hesitations and took up arms against the Führer? Very few key survivors have not been heard from. Unless new diaries or reminiscences come to light, as seems unlikely, this will become the classic work on a heroic failure.

**THE BIRTH OF  
SAUDI ARABIA:  
Britain and the Rise of  
the House of Sa'ud**

by Gary Troeller  
London: Frank Cass, 1976  
287 pp. £8.50  
ISBN 0-7146-3062-4

Until the independence of India in 1947, British policy in the Persian Gulf was tied to London's need to maintain the entire Arabian Sea area as a secure link between England and its most important overseas possession. For many years, reliance upon sea power was accompanied by a hands-off attitude toward tribal rivalries in the Arabian Peninsula. But when, in 1902, 'Abd al 'Aziz Ibn 'Abd al Rhaman Ibn Sa'ud captured Riyadh, the ancestral capital of the House of Sa'ud, from the ruling Ibn