

CURRENT BOOKS

FELLOWS' CHOICE

Recent titles selected and reviewed by Fellows of the Wilson Center

**THE SECULARIZATION
OF THE EUROPEAN
MIND IN THE NINE-
TEENTH CENTURY**

by Owen Chadwick
Cambridge, 1975
286 pp. \$18.95
L of C 75-16870
ISBN 0-521-20892-0

Focusing on Britain, France, and Germany between 1860 and 1900, Cambridge's Regius Professor of Modern History disputes the conventional wisdom that urbanization and scientific discovery undermined 19th-century religious commitments. Paradoxically, secularization reflected the vitality of religion in European life. In the burgeoning cities, working-class people were mildly hostile toward churches, but not toward religion. Many churchmen as well as anticlericalists approved the decline in the churches' political influence. Socialist leaders encountered distaste for atheism: Rosa Luxemburg ultimately mounted an attack on churches precisely for being irreligious. Sober thinkers of the day discerned no inherent conflict between science and religion. In France, Ernest Renan's biography of a humanized, secularized Jesus attracted sustained readership. Overall, Chadwick perceives 19th-century secularization not as a movement against religion but as a quest for a Christianity that fulfilled the promise of personal freedom. "Liberty to attack religion rose less from the decline of religion than from the love of liberty."

—F. Gregory Campbell ('77)

**THE BOLSHEVIKS
COME TO POWER:
The Revolution of 1917
in Petrograd**

by Alexander Rabinowitch
Norton, 1976, 393 pp. \$14.95
L of C 76-20756
ISBN 0-393-05586-8

Five crucial months in the history of the Russian Revolution are portrayed here with a wealth of new data. The Bolsheviks, lifting themselves up from a seemingly fatal slump in their fortunes in July 1917, moved to their successful bid for power in October (Julian calendar). Quite a number of preconceptions are dispelled in this work by Rabinowitch, director of Indiana University's