

CURRENT BOOKS

FELLOWS' CHOICE

THE MODERN WORLD-SYSTEM: Capitalistic Agriculture and the Origins of the European World-Economy in the Sixteenth Century

By Immanuel Wallerstein
Academic Press, 1974, 410 pp.
\$16.50 cloth, \$4.95 paper
L of C 73-5318
ISBN 0-12-785920-9

An authority on contemporary Africa, sociologist Wallerstein turned to history to discover the broad characteristics of independent states and empires. One thing led to another. In this weighty, complex book he offers the first of a projected four volumes on the largest social system he could identify: the "world economy" that came into being between 1450 and 1640 and reached from Peru to the Danube. Its durability, Wallerstein argues, has been due to the multiplicity of strong, competing states within it, which prevented its transformation into a single empire. Why modern capitalism required this framework, how its geographical and social sectors related to one another, and how power shifted within the system are the main themes he pursues. Though heavily indebted to recent French, Italian, and English historiography, the book is a striking indication of the surprising vitality that neo-Marxist perspectives have begun to develop in American scholarship.

—John Higham

JAPAN FACES CHINA: Political and Economic Relations in the Postwar Era

By Chae-Jin Lee
Johns Hopkins, 1976
242 pp. \$12.50
L of C 75-40408
ISBN 0-8018-1738-2

Even before diplomatic relations between Japan and the People's Republic of China were established in 1972, the two nations had consolidated mutually satisfactory economic links, which, says the author, "had an unmistakable influence over the direction of political relations between their governments." Chae-Jin Lee's penetrating work complements Marius B. Jansen's standard history of Sino-Japanese relations from 1894 to 1972 (see *The Wilson Quarterly*, Autumn 1976, page 131) by developing in full, largely from Japanese sources, the story of rapprochement and cooperation from 1949 onwards.

—Joseph S. Sebes, S.J.