

ister H. V. Evatt. Many of his ideas were embodied in the U.N. Charter in 1945. The compromise solutions of that year carved up former Italian and Japanese colonies. But the victorious British, Louis contends, quoting elder historian A. J. P. Taylor, in the end did not relinquish their empire by accident (as has been widely written). Rather, they ceased to believe in it.

**THE MILITARY IN GREEK POLITICS: The 1909 Coup d'Etat**  
by S. Victor Papacosma  
Kent State Univ., 1978  
254 pp. \$12.50  
L of C 77-22391  
ISBN 0-87338-208-0

The "1909 Revolution" was the first major intervention by the Army in Greece's parliamentary politics. Universally praised by Greeks as the catalyst to reform, it strengthened the nation just prior to the Balkan Wars. Kent State University historian Papacosma now offers a revisionist analysis, terming the "Revolution" a coup d'état, and finding the officers' attempts at reform as conservative and ineffectual as those of the squabbling politicians the Army replaced. But the coup did launch the brilliant career of Eleftherios Venizelos, prime minister and founder of the reformist Liberal Party, and gave an ideological cast to Greece's patronage-hungry political parties, until then indistinguishable from one another.

**FIGHTER: The True Story of the Battle of Britain**  
by Len Deighton  
Knopf, 1978  
285 pp. \$12.50  
L of C 77-20356  
ISBN 0-394-42757-2

Infinitely more complicated than the legend that grew up around it was the actual struggle for control of the skies over Britain in the wartime summer of 1940. The welter of detail made so absorbing in *Bomber* (the author's earlier account of an RAF bombing raid) almost overwhelms this sequel. Drawing on official records and countless interviews with veterans from both sides of the epic "Battle of Britain," Deighton describes the flight paths of innumerable German bombing raids and the often futile British efforts to stop them. We gain a comprehensive picture of the aircraft, the tactics, the strategies, and the blunders. What comes through less clearly was what it was really like to be an ill-trained, inexperienced RAF Spitfire pilot facing the Luftwaffe for the first time high over the English Channel.