

**SOFT ENERGY PATHS:****Toward a Durable Peace**

by Amory B. Lovins  
Ballinger, 1977, 233 pp.  
\$15 cloth, \$6.95 paper  
L of C 77-4349  
ISBN 0-88410-614-4  
ISBN 0-88410-615-2 pbk

An oft-proposed solution to the world's energy problem is to increase supplies to meet projected demands, primarily through rapid extension of high technologies for generation of electricity and production of hydrocarbon fuels. Lovins, a young American physicist now residing in Britain, summarizes the arguments for an alternative to this "hard" path. He advocates more efficient use of existing energy systems and supplies, with particular emphasis on careful matching of the scale and quality of delivered energy to consumers' real needs (e.g., electricity to light, but not to heat, houses). Critics who have attacked his "soft" path thesis as softheaded point out that it is based on unproved assumptions and say that it would require unacceptable changes in U.S. lifestyles. But Lovins is no primitivist taking us back to an earlier, wood-burning rural America. His nonapocalyptic study, bolstered with supporting data, is probably the best guide we have to the feasibility—he would say the necessity—of something other than expanded high technology as a solution to energy needs.

— Charles F. Cooper ('77)

**PERUVIAN DEMOCRACY  
UNDER ECONOMIC  
STRESS: An Account of the  
Belaúnde Administration,  
1963-1968**

by Pedro-Pablo Kuczynski  
Princeton, 1977  
308 pp. \$16.50  
L of C 76-24296  
ISBN 0-691-04213-6

What are the prospects for successful civilian rule, once the Peruvian military steps down from power in 1980, as promised? Kuczynski's account of economic policymaking under Peru's last popularly elected president, Fernando Belaúnde, does not encourage optimism. A former manager of Peru's Central Bank during the Belaúnde administration, Kuczynski has written an insider's chronicle of events leading to the military takeover and so-called Revolution of 1968. Weak political institutions, obstructionist opposition parties, vulnerable export-oriented economy, and rising demands on government from a restive population still characterize Peru; restoration of civilian rule could lead to a replay of the kinds of events he describes.

Webb, former research director of Peru's Central Bank, writes for specialists but reaches conclusions that are of general interest. He argues that between 1963 and '73, little progress was made toward a more equi-

**GOVERNMENT POLICY  
AND THE DISTRIBUTION  
OF INCOME IN  
PERU, 1963-1973**

by Richard Charles Webb  
Harvard, 1977, 239 pp. \$15  
L of C 76-22579  
ISBN 0-674-35830-9