

welfare. The Japanese legal system emphasizes problem-solving rather than adversary proceedings between lawyers. Social pressures reduce crime; in 1973, "there were approximately four-and-a-half times as many murders per person in the United States, five times as many rapes, and 105 times as many robberies" as there were in Japan. Lacking abundant natural resources, the island nation could not permit the waste that accompanied U.S. growth. Now that the United States faces scarcities of fuel and other commodities, Vogel believes it could learn from the Japanese experience. Yet he does not ignore Japan's unhappy trends: the stifling of individual rights and creativity due to overregimentation in the work place, the resurgence of national chauvinism, and a high suicide rate among its youth. And he concedes that not all Japanese solutions suit U.S. problems, if only because of America's size, heterogeneous population, and focus on the individual.

**EUROPE BETWEEN THE
SUPERPOWERS: The
Enduring Balance**

by A. W. DePorte
Yale, 1979
256 pp. \$18.50
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Until World War I, the European system of states, which had emerged at the end of the Middle Ages, remained essentially stable despite frequent wars. By 1913-14, however, Germany was leading Europe in arms expenditures (\$554 million compared to Britain's \$384 million and France's \$287 million) and industrial output (producing three times as much pig iron and ferro alloys as France). American and Russian involvement in both World Wars was necessary to prevent German hegemony. Since 1945, the rivalry between the United States and the USSR has meant relative peace, independence, and prosperity for Western Europe, according to DePorte, a member of the State Department's policy planning staff. At least, the superpower standoff in Europe has been better than the possible alternatives: Soviet control of all of Europe, or Germany's reunification by force, with a revival of German aggression. DePorte argues that the most important development in Europe since 1962 (the year of the Cuban Missile Crisis) has been the successful U.S.-

USSR effort "to stabilize their relationship at a lower level of tension" than existed during the 1950s. However much the people of Eastern Europe would welcome a loosening of Soviet ties, their experience—the Russian invasions of Hungary (1956) and Czechoslovakia (1968)—makes clear that power relations in Eastern Europe are not apt to change. Soviet dominance over Eastern Europe will continue to threaten the security of Western Europe; and Western Europe will continue to rely on U.S. might and money to deter the Russians and to help maintain the cooperative economic system that brought prosperity in the years following 1945.

**DECIDING WHAT'S
NEWS: A Study of CBS
Evening News, NBC Nightly
News, Newsweek, and Time**

by Herbert J. Gans

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From an avowed "left-liberal" perspective, Columbia sociologist Herbert J. Gans soberly examines four leading national processor-purveyors of news—and finds them wanting. He does not share the conservative view that a leftish Manhattan bias pervades the output of *Time*, *Newsweek*, CBS, and NBC. Rather, his periodic researches (in 1965–69 and 1975) indicate that these media uphold America's "dominant" values. For the most part, these organizations report "on those at or near the top . . . and on those, particularly near the bottom, who threaten them" to a vast audience located in the middle. To hold audiences, news executives focus on Big Names in government, politics, show business, or crime, on melodramatic conflict and disaster. They favor domestic "trends" over foreign news. (Vietnam became a "domestic" story when American GIs entered combat.) Well-paid *Time* and *Newsweek* editors, says Gans, universalize their own "upper-middle-class lifestyles"; they have little contact with ordinary Americans. TV commentators attack erring politicians or individual corporations as "bad apples"; they do not question the "existing economic order." Journalists transmit the only nonfiction that most Americans see, hear, or read. As counterpoint to David Halberstam's anecdotal bestseller on the media, *The Powers That Be*, analyst Gans argues for increased "diversity" in the