
not only general economic modernization but also a remarkably rapid integration into another language and culture in the course of one lifetime. Only an insider who had lived through this change and remembered the oral traditions of Brittany's "civilization of the soil" could so compellingly transport us to the world of his grandfather, a man "too poor to buy any other horse" who said, "at least the Horse of Pride will always have a stall in my stable."

—Walter M. Pintner ('78)

**FOUNDATIONS OF
CHRISTIAN FAITH:
An Introduction to the
Idea of Christianity**

by Karl Rahner
Seabury, 1978
485 pp. \$19.50
L of C 77-13336
ISBN 0-8164-0354-6

Germany's Karl Rahner, 74, is the world's best-known Catholic theologian, renowned for his breakthrough thinking on a vast range of difficult questions. At the age of 72, having published many volumes of his collected essays, he composed his first full-scale work of theology, setting forth his reflections on the basic idea of Christianity. His goal was to show the overall intelligibility and credibility of Catholic Christianity without getting entangled in detailed historical or exegetical investigations. This fruit of a lifetime of study and meditation glistens with original insights into nearly every aspect of the Catholic message. Although it lacks the timeliness and passion of some of Rahner's shorter pieces, readers with a taste for the philosophical analysis of religious experience will spontaneously hail *Foundations* as a classic of its kind.

—Avery Dulles, S.J. ('77)

**A PRETTY GOOD CLUB:
The Founding Fathers of
the U.S. Foreign Service**

by Martin Weil
Norton, 1978, 313 pp. \$12.95
L of C 77-25104
ISBN 0-393-05658-9

At the outset the author quotes I.F. Stone: "To do a book on the State Department, you would need Drew Pearson for gossip, Karl Marx for social forces, Henry James for social nuances, and Max Weber for institutional patterns." On his own, Weil does a fine job of telling the story of "a small group of Christian gentlemen who founded the profession of diplomacy on a permanent basis in America" during the first half of this century. Few emerge as heroes. Many emerge as second-raters: in their snobbism, their aping of aristocratic European diplomats, their disdain for Washington and for domestic politics, the

dislike for Jews that some openly displayed. Penultimately, the members of the club (Loy Henderson, Hugh Gibson, Joseph Grew, Sumner Welles, and others) succeeded in re-establishing the State Department's primacy over foreign policy after President Franklin D. Roosevelt's death in 1945. Ultimately, their vision of the ideal Foreign Service and their policy preferences both lost out, but many of the contradictions in today's U.S. Foreign Service hark back to their ascendancy: "pink peppermint protocol" (versus unabashed politicking); closed (versus open) diplomacy; Europeanism (versus globalism). Fortunately, the club's old-time Ivy League dominance over foreign policy has given way to dominance by an Ivy League that has been "diluted" to its own advantage—as well as the country's—by people like Martin Weil, Harvard '66.

—Herbert J. Spiro ('78)

**WOODROW WILSON:
The Years of Preparation**

by John M. Mulder
Princeton, 1978
306 pp. \$16.50
L of C 77-72128
ISBN 0-691-04647-6

Arthur Link, Henry Bragdon, and others have already revealed a great deal about Wilson. Do we need to know more? Is more to be known? Mulder's account of the 28th President's academic years, from student days to the presidency of Princeton, is a supplementary volume to the formidable *Papers of Woodrow Wilson*. It does not change the established view of the man as someone both obdurate and sparkling—to borrow a phrase from Woody (no Woodrow) Allen. However, Mulder is a careful, sensible historian, neither debunker nor idolater. He analyzes the cautious modulation of Wilson's opinions, showing how much (via his eloquent, ambitious, thwarted clergyman-father) Wilson's Presbyterianism shaped his attitudes. Young Wilson framed compacts and covenants—including one with his fiancée, promising achievement and outlining the support they would provide each other in a quest for future greatness. Professor Wilson preached innumerable sermons. He believed: in God, in himself, perhaps in their partnership. An extraordinary man in sum, yet in his parts almost an "Identikit" American of his era.

—Marcus Cunliffe ('78)