

From *China and the West*.

rian Ch'en, was marked by "a Western chorus denigrating China and a Chinese chorus lauding the West." Military defeats (suffered at the hands of the British, French, and Japanese) and exposure to the Western debate over the evolutionary nature of societies (via the first Mandarin translations of Herbert Spencer, John Stuart Mill, and Thomas Huxley) prompted China's leaders to question the viability of their own rule. Manchu lords and, after 1911, Sun Yat-sen and his successor, Chiang Kai-shek, yearned to emulate the aggressive and powerful West. Both the old Manchus and the republicans failed. Their unyielding loyalty to patriarchal Confucianism, with its emphasis on harmony and order, simply protected "the status quo," contends Ch'en. Meanwhile, the spectacle of the Western world coming apart during World War I disillusioned many Chinese intellectuals. In a 1923 Peking National University popularity poll, Lenin received 227 votes; Woodrow Wilson, 51. Chiang futilely experimented with Western-style reforms, mainly, the centralization of governmental power. At the same time, Chinese communists organized and trained for guerrilla action, and war with Japan loomed ahead.

LEOPOLD II OF THE BELGIANS:
King of Colonialism
 by Barbara Emerson
 St. Martin's, 1980
 324 pp. \$25

"To be a great person," Leopold II once remarked, "is not necessarily the same as being a good person." Historian Emerson's colorful biography depicts the Belgian king, who began his reign in 1865 at age 30, as shrewd and audacious—but too big for his homeland. An artful diplomat, Leopold kept his country from being annexed by powerful neighbors, notably France's Napoleon III, who regarded Belgium as a "ripe pear." At home he built up the Army and beautified Belgium's cities. But his real ambitions lay overseas. Leopold sought to buy or rent a score of Asian colonies—from Borneo to Formosa to Indochina—before deciding "to find out discreetly whether there is anything doing in Africa." With the help of American journalist-explorer H. M. Stanley, he established the

Congo Free State in 1885 as his personal fiefdom (the Belgian government *per se* was not involved) and precipitated the European "Scramble for Africa." Spurred by the 1888 invention of the pneumatic tire, Leopold exploited the rubber-rich, million-square-mile Congo as his private plantation, employing what amounted to slave labor. His reputation was deservedly (and permanently) blackened after Roger Casement, England's consul in the Congo, published a report describing Leopold's atrocities. The embarrassed Belgian parliament finally wrested jurisdiction over the hapless colony from the king in 1908. Leopold died, bitter and reviled, a year later.

Contemporary Affairs

TITO'S YUGOSLAVIA

by Duncan Wilson
Cambridge, 1980
269 pp. \$24.95

"We are developing socialism in our country in somewhat different forms," Josip Broz Tito informed Stalin in 1948 when Yugoslavia and Moscow parted ways. Since then, Yugoslavia's ethnically diverse federation of six republics and two autonomous provinces has adopted some decidedly noncommunist policies: limited private enterprise, open borders, nominal nonalignment in world affairs. Wilson—British ambassador to Yugoslavia (1964–68) and to Russia (1968–71)—faithfully details the internal party debates (there have been three constitutions since 1953) and regional rivalries in a country some inhabitants have called "Progressive Wonderland." Tito—strong, pragmatic, and clever—generally stayed above the fray, intervening in governmental reorganizations only when they were well along their way, or when he felt they had become too liberal. And after Tito? The USSR will be cautious, avoiding direct intervention without abandoning its long-standing aim of returning Yugoslavia to the Soviet camp, says Wilson. Domestic economic policies may eventually cause Yugoslavia more trouble. As the industrial North (Croatia and Slovenia) has prospered from