

CURRENT BOOKS

FELLOWS' CHOICE

Recent titles selected and reviewed by Fellows of the Wilson Center

THE UNITED STATES AND POLAND

by Piotr S. Wandycz
Harvard, 1980
465 pp. \$25

In the early 1770s, American colonists were too preoccupied with their own impending conflagration to notice that, 4,600 miles away, Poland was being carved up by Austria, Prussia, and Russia. Wandycz, a Yale historian, surveys U.S.-Polish relations (to the extent that they have existed at all) since then. After World War I, crusading U.S. foreign policy makers first showed an interest in the "Polish Question." With the support of Woodrow Wilson, independence was conferred on the long-suffering Poles at the 1919 Paris Peace Conference. Yet after World War II, the Western Allies conceded the "borderlands of Europe" to their Soviet "liberators." Why? In Wandycz's view, the fates of small Eastern European states became less important to U.S. Presidents than maintaining a clear East-West balance of power in Europe as a whole. Since 1945, U.S.-Polish diplomacy has been a "barometer" of U.S.-Soviet tensions. When relations between America and Russia are relatively genial, Wandycz contends, the United States seems less worried over Poland's satellite status and domestic politics than when détente is foundering.

—Vlad Georgescu ('80)

DEEP SONG AND OTHER PROSE

by Federico García Lorca
New Directions, 1980
143 pp. \$10 cloth,
\$4.95 paper

In intellectual circles these days, an author's popularity usually conspires against his reputation, as if only esotericism guarantees excellence. The writings of Spanish poet and playwright Lorca (1896-1936) circulate widely. Spaniards and Latin Americans who seldom enter a theater have seen *Blood Wedding*. While Francisco Franco, Spain's flamboyant dictator, lived, criticism of Lorca was rare. Assassinated by rightist nationalists be-