by half during the period 1966–76) has been passed on to consumers in the form of higher-priced goods; they, in turn, have sought inflated wages to pay for them.

ARABIA, THE GULF AND THE WEST
by J. B. Kelly
Basic, 1980
530 pp. $25

Most recent books about the Arab states have either been narrow, scholarly treatises lacking in immediacy or "quickies" published to capitalize on the latest flare-ups in the Middle East. This account is one of the first to offer timely and substantial histories of each of the Persian Gulf States. But it will be hotly debated. Historian Kelly sees the Arab world as the primitive domain of dynastic rivalries, antipathies among Muslim sects, and tribal vendettas. The industrial world, he writes, has been left dependent on the good will of a handful of "militarily insignificant" states with long cultural and religious traditions of animosity toward the Christian West. Kelly asserts that the Arabs' oil revenues—more than $200 billion in 1979—have been squandered. In Saudi Arabia and the Shah's Iran, excessive amounts have been spent on sophisticated weaponry; costly new hospitals and schools cannot be properly staffed. While the West engages in diplomacy amid a "deadly lethargy," he warns, Soviet behavior in the Middle East bears "all the hallmarks of . . . imperial Russia." Useful data in a controversial package.

THE POLITICS OF REGULATION
edited by James Q. Wilson
Basic, 1980
468 pp. $18.95

Businessmen seek relief from what they see as overzealous government regulation. Surprisingly, many consumers favor deregulation too, but for a different reason. They believe that most regulatory agencies have been "captured" by the industries they are supposed to control. Neither view is quite accurate, contends Wilson. In 10 informative essays, he and nine other political scientists examine the workings of a few state power commissions and several federal regulatory agencies. The latter include, among others, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the Food and Drug Adminis-