



Stone-carved head of a Templar knight, Temple Church, London. Photograph by Stephen Howarth.

gues that they were mainly victims. The order was established around 1118 in Jerusalem. Its founders were Hugh de Payens, a middle-rank nobleman, and other French knights dedicated to defending the recently reconquered Holy Land. Their aspiration: "to unite the contrary virtues of monk and warrior." The knights, whose ranks soon swelled to include Germans, Italians, and Britons, quickly gained recognition, financial support, and special privileges (mainly tax exemptions) from the Church. Before long, they owned land throughout Europe and in Outremer, the Holy Land. For over 180 years, the knights valiantly defended Jerusalem against Muslim armies. But a death blow came from fellow Christians, the secular princes who envied their wealth and prestige. Caught up in the political struggle between the papacy and the King of France, the order was finally dissolved by Pope Clement V in 1312. Howarth's lively history underscores a paradox of medieval Christendom—its martial piety.

**ORDEAL BY FIRE:  
The Civil War  
and Reconstruction**  
by James M. McPherson  
Knopf, 1982  
694 pp. \$29.95

The bloodiest of American wars and the last to be fought on native soil, the Civil War changed the way Americans viewed themselves. "Union" became "nation"; the "United States" a singular noun. And the federal government emerged as a more powerful instrument: It issued money (before the war, state-chartered banks had), conscripted men directly when states failed to meet quotas, and confiscated property. The 13th Amendment abolishing slavery "established a precedent by which the next six restricted state powers or expanded those of the national government." The appellation "first modern war" is perhaps a misnomer, since "every war is more modern than the previous one," argues McPherson, a professor of history at Princeton. But his descriptions of Northern industry—exemplified by railroads, rifle technology, and mass production—highlight the modernity of the war's machinery, if not of its tactics (which remained essentially

those of the Napoleonic wars). So, by their presence, do the photographs of politicians, soldiers, and battlefields that punctuate the text. McPherson's narrative concludes with the "unmourned death" of Reconstruction—that failed attempt to remake the South in the image of the North.

### *Contemporary Affairs*

**MITI AND THE  
JAPANESE MIRACLE:  
The Growth  
of Industrial Policy**  
by Chalmers Johnson  
Stanford, 1982  
393 pp. \$28.50

Current discussions of strategies—many of them inspired by Japan—for reinvigorating the ailing U.S. economy make this study both timely and helpful. Japan is the "best example of a state-guided market system currently available," observes Johnson, a Berkeley political scientist. But his analysis of Tokyo's Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) and related agencies does not ignore the costs (big bureaucracies, subordination of individuals to corporate goals) involved in creating a "development state" as opposed to the "regulatory state" devised by Americans. Tokyo's formation of an "economic general staff" during the 1930s to manage a wartime economy spawned a powerful bureaucratic elite. These civil servants, responsive to industrial interests (in part because many planned to shift to the private sector), forged a private-public development policy that survived well into the postwar 1940s, after which Big Business acquired a greater share of power. "Administrative guidance" principles gave discretionary power to the bureaucracy in guiding the economy, without destroying either democracy or domestic competition. The changes produced by MITI during its golden age (1952–61) included revitalized trading companies, banking reforms, and the creation of new industries (steel, automobile). All spurred Japan's advances of the 1960s. Entrance onto the world stage and an expanding economic machine lessened the need for MITI's "invisible hand." But since the "oil shock" of 1974, MITI has regained some of its earlier prestige through its influence over energy and resource policies.