proved historical paintings. *The Deluge* (1789) by Jean-Baptiste Regnault—in which a tormented son must choose between rescuing his father or his wife and son—presents a rationale for abandoning traditional authority. And, in Jacques-Louis David's *Brutus* (1789), the Roman leader is shown being forced to execute his traitorous sons, rendered powerless before a genderless abstraction—the state.

Made anxious by reformist rumblings, Louis XV and Louis XVI hoped that these classical representations would inspire patriotism and reinforce the monarchy's image of grandeur and enlightened benevolence. Ironically, after 1789, the same paintings were hung and admired as "emblems of Revolutionary ideals."

The Unromantic Jane Austen

"The Novels of Jane Austen: Attachments and Supplantments" by Daniel Cottom, in *Novel: A Forum on Fiction* (Winter 1981), Box 1984, Brown University, Providence, R.I. 02912.

Literary critics since Sir Walter Scott have been struck by the unsentimental view of love portrayed in the novels of Jane Austen (1775–1817). But Austen's wry studies of romance reflect no lack of feeling, suggests Cottom, of Wayne State University (Michigan). Rather, Austen was reacting to the disorganized state of British society at the turn of the century. To her, Cupid's work was poorly served by the stiff codes and etiquettes ordained by the waning, still dominant aristocracy. But his arrows were no better steered by the sentimental values of the ascending middle class.

Austen resisted the idea that romantic attraction results from distinct affinities between people. The sentimental lover—e.g., Marianne Dashwood in *Sense and Sensibility* (1811)—tries to believe her love is fated, certain. But Austen shows this certainty to be "laughably weak in comparison to the instability of society," says Cottom. To Austen, love is haphazard, subject to displacement, and ruled by circumstance. Thus, the exceedingly correct Mr. Collins of *Pride and Prejudice* (1813) could switch his affections with remarkable speed from Jane Bennet—who had a beau—to her sister Elizabeth, with Mrs. Bennet, the ladies' mother, "stirring the fire."

Love is further obstructed by the "task of telling lies, when politeness require[s] it," as Austen wrote. In Austen's novels, dialogue between lovers, as between all others, must follow long-established, outworn forms that no longer can convey inner feelings. The misunderstandings and conflicts that result provide Austen's plots. Marriages and families are not havens from the world, as they are in Charles Dickens's novels. They are reflections of it. Relationships within them are "as formal as or more formal than" relationships with outsiders.

Austen conveyed the social chaos of the day. But she also showed the ways in which individuals gain some measure of control over their lives: As Mrs. Grant of *Mansfield Park* (1814) observes, "If one scheme of

happiness fails, human nature turns to another; if the first calculation is wrong, we make a second better. We find comfort somewhere."

OTHER NATIONS

A Latin Giant

"Dateline Brazil: Southern Superpower" by Jim Brooke, in *Foreign Policy* (Fall 1981), P.O. Box 984, Farmingdale, N.Y 11737.

With 119 million people, Brazil is the fifth-largest nation on earth. It has the world's eighth-largest gross national product ($200 billion, up 100 percent since 1970) and ranks as the sixth-largest weapons exporter ($1 billion in 1980), selling light tanks and small missiles. Its modern factories churn out computers for China and turboprop planes for the Ivory Coast. According to Brooke, a *Washington Post* correspondent, Brazil is "emerging as the superpower of the South."

The country's economic success rests on an aggressive export policy and a nonideological, open-arms attitude toward other Third World countries, say the author. Lured by low prices, developing countries now snap up 40 percent of Brazil's exports, especially in Africa, where Brazil is linked by language to Portuguese-speaking Angola and Mozambique. Agriculture has contributed to the export boom, too. Brazil is still the world's leading producer of coffee. But soybean output has jumped from 2.2 million to 15 million tons since 1971 and now stands as the country's top export crop.

Brazil now conducts an independent foreign policy. The *Yanquis* remain Brazil's leading trading partners, creditors, and investors. Even so, diplomatic relations were badly strained by the Carter administration's criticisms of human rights violations. President João Baptista Figueiredo condemned the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Yet Brazil signed a five-year, $5 billion trade pact with Moscow—Brazilian soybeans and blue jeans for 30,000 barrels of Soviet oil per day. And despite Brasilia's official hostility to Cuba, the regime refuses to endorse U.S. intervention in El Salvador.

Like other Third World regimes, Figueiredo's military government faces some sizable problems. The nation imports 80 percent of its oil, which has pushed its foreign debt up to a world-leading $60 billion. Inflation roars along at 100 percent annually. A new austerity drive has slowed economic growth (to four percent) and spurred unemployment. Finally, Brazil's income distribution is highly skewed; poverty and illiteracy remain widespread.

Yet Brazil now uses barely 15 percent of its arable land. It has yet to exploit its hydroelectric potential. And it sits atop vast, untapped reserves of iron ore, copper, nickel, manganese, and bauxite. Compared to its assets, Brazil's economic liabilities are minor.