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**NEW TITLES**


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*History*

**BLOOD RIVER: The  
Passionate Saga of South  
Africa's Afrikaners  
and of Life in their  
Embattled Land**  
by Barbara Villet  
Everest House, 1982  
255 pp. \$16.95

Neither her earlier visits to the country nor marriage to a white South African fully prepared journalist Villet for her 1980 confrontation in Johannesburg with a young Dutch Reformed minister. His "black eyes glittering," he informed the American writer that the Declaration of Independence was one of the most "corrupt documents ever written." It was blasphemy, he held, not to think that God had made "some men for mastery and others for servitude." Villet's history traces the Afrikaner's world view to the creed of John Calvin, laid down in 1534, and brought to the Cape of Good Hope by three shiploads of Dutch colonists in 1652. Seeing themselves as the Children of Israel, the first of roughly 6,000 Afrikaners began, in 1836, their northward trek to escape British dominion and to establish their own republic. Two years later, 500 Afrikaners defeated 15,000 ostrich-plumed Zulus at Blood River, confirming their sense of a special covenant with God. Autonomy was short-lived: From their defeat in the Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) until they gained a majority in the South African Parliament almost fifty years later, they chafed under English rule. Constructing an elaborate system of apartheid during the 1950s, the Afrikaners thought they had fulfilled their God-given mission to rule the land. But growing tensions, signalled by the Sharpeville and Soweto riots of the 1960s and '70s, have forced them into a political dilemma that old dogma will not resolve.

**EVE AND THE NEW  
JERUSALEM:  
Socialism and Feminism  
in the Nineteenth Century**  
by Barbara Taylor  
Pantheon, 1983  
394 pp. \$9.95

"Every family is a center of absolute despotism," from whose center spreads "a contagion of selfishness and love of domination," wrote the 19th-century English journalist William Thompson, an enthusiastic convert to the socialist vision of Robert Owen (1771-1858). Unlike later Marxian socialists, followers of Owen (a successful Manchester industrialist before he became a fierce oppo-



**THE SELECTED ESSAYS  
OF T. HARRY WILLIAMS**  
intro. by Estelle Williams  
Louisiana State, 1983  
276 pp. \$19.95

ment of capitalism) focused less on class-based economic relations than on the dynamics of the family. Marriage, they argued, converted the wife, and any children she might have, into her husband's chattels. The egalitarian promise of "The New Moral Society" attracted many prominent 19th-century British feminists, including the popular lecturers Emma Martin and Fanny Wright. But many others found it hard to see the difference between "free association" (which replaced marriage in the Owenite communities) and promiscuity. Drawing on diaries, letters, and other contemporary accounts, Taylor, a University of Reading historian, shows that feminists had other grounds for skepticism. Most Owenite women found their workloads doubled, as communal duties were simply added to domestic chores. And Owen himself was unable to relinquish his patriarchal control over the communities. After 1845, with the splintering of Owenism into trade unionism and other movements, radicals tended to dismiss the issue of women's rights as a bourgeois concern. Though seemingly natural allies, Western socialism and feminism have long had an uneasy relationship; Butler's tough-minded look at one of its earliest stages helps explain why.

Both in his teaching at Louisiana State and in his writing, Williams (1909–79) subscribed to what he called a version of the "great man" theory of history. These essays take up some of the same personalities and issues that inspired such widely acclaimed books as *Lincoln and His Generals* (1952) and *Huey Long* (1969). In "The Military Systems of the North and South," Williams briskly contrasts the strategies and leadership of the opposing armies, showing how Lincoln (though militarily untutored) "interfered to make a sound offensive strategy stronger" and Jefferson Davis (a West Point graduate and war veteran) "interfered to make a defective defensive strategy more defensive." Elsewhere, he discusses Lincoln's strained wartime rela-