
PAPERBOUNDS

CO-WIVES AND CALABASHES. By Sally Price. Univ. of Mich., 1984. 224 pp. \$12.50

Anthropologists who have studied primitive cultures throughout the world have tended to conclude that matrilineal societies are also matriarchal. Johns Hopkins anthropologist Sally Price, who lived for 17 years among the Saramaka Maroons of South America's Suriname rain forest, found that what the "co-wives" in this polygynous society enjoy are the *appearances* of power and independence. Husbands, for instance, are required by custom to spend equal amounts of time with each wife, and each wife has her own dwelling. But men assert their greater autonomy in myriad ways—in their freedom to travel, in their access to tools, and even in their attitudes toward art objects. Men receive gifts of art from their spouses graciously but invest them with no special significance; women, however, view them as symbols of their standing with their husbands.

THE PRINTING REVOLUTION IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE. By Elizabeth L. Eisenstein. Cambridge, 1983. 297 pp. \$9.95 paper

During the late 1450s, according to one story, Johann Fust set off from Mainz to Paris to market a dozen Bibles fresh off the new printing press of his partner, Johann Gutenberg. Parisian manuscript dealers, incredulous at Fust's stock of identical Bibles, accused him of trafficking with the devil, and the hapless burgher was forced to flee for his life. The Parisians were not the last to recognize the revolutionary nature of the printing press. But, observes Eisenstein, a University of Michigan historian, those who acknowledge the momentous changes "always seem to stop short of telling us what they were." This shortened version of her 1979 book remains a fascinating inquiry

into the effects of printing on religion, politics, science, and the Renaissance. She explains, for instance, how printing helped splinter Christendom while drawing together the world of science. It was possible for every man to own a Bible and to become his own interpreter of the Word; thus printing helped bring on the Reformation. By easing the circulation of ideas, printing also created a community of physicists, astronomers, and map makers whose work led to the rise of modern science.

GOING ALL THE WAY: Christian Warlords, Israeli Adventurers, and the War in Lebanon. By Jonathan C. Randal. Vintage, 1983. 317 pp. \$5.95

Lebanon was once called the "Land of Welcome and Tolerance." To its prosperous capital, Beirut, flocked Western journalists, diplomats, and businessmen to savor its nightclubs, the Mediterranean beaches, and modern hustle-bustle. But in April 1975, "warlords and looters"—that is, Christians and Moslems—turned Lebanon into a "non-place, a killing ground." So writes Randal, a *Washington Post* correspondent, in this clear-eyed account of the 1975–76 civil war and the 1982 Israeli invasion of Lebanon. Randal argues that "Operation Peace for Galilee" (as the Israelis called the invasion) demonstrated that "Israel had become part of the callous Middle East environment." No interested party was innocent, Randal finds, in the destruction of Lebanon. But he puts the heaviest blame on the Maronite Christians, who have controlled Lebanon politically since 1943. The Maronites, he says, "have no real sense of state," and no understanding that "[political] legitimacy requires sharing power and privilege"—fatal flaws "in a land shot through with the accumulated paranoia of so many minorities."