A heroic 1892 portrayal of Beethoven. The composer's increasing deafness after age 20 made his achievements seem all the more awesome.

sober artistic assessment of Beethoven. The French composer Claude Debussy, while admiring the German's musical genius, failed to discern godlike qualities. "Beethoven hadn't two cents of literary worth in him," he remarked.

The Romantics' Beethoven mystique lingers, however, in popular perceptions of the composer. Today's audiences still enjoy the fantasy, Newman writes, along with such masterpieces as the *Moonlight* Sonata and the Fifth Symphony.

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The Swiss Army

"The Swiss Army" by John McPhee, in *The New Yorker* (Oct. 31 and Nov. 7, 1983), 25 West 43rd St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

For nearly 500 years, Switzerland has stayed out of Europe's wars by relying on what the Swiss call the "Porcupine Principle." The formula is simple, reports McPhee, a *New Yorker* writer: The tiny nation bristles with arms and its people stand ready to fight.

Topography—the Jura mountains and the Alps—makes Switzerland

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a natural fortress. But the Swiss have improved upon nature. Dug into the rock are thousands of artillery pieces (many loaded and manned full-time) trained on railroads and highways that invaders would likely use. Important bridges are rigged with explosives placed by their designers, ready to self-destruct on command. Mountains are honeycombed with airplane hangars, tunnels full of food and munitions, and command posts. Shelters against nuclear attack are everywhere; one alpine highway tunnel is fitted with five-foot-thick concrete doors at either end, making it "the biggest bomb shelter in the world."

Almost all able-bodied Swiss men are drafted into the Army (it has only some 30,000 professional soldiers) for 30 years of part-time service. Some 600,000 Swiss citizen-soldiers keep their rifles and ammunition at home, ready for instant mobilization. Enlisted men serve roughly two weeks of active duty annually, officers more, and their employers are only partially reimbursed for the salaries they must continue to pay. Almost every day a mock battle, staged with live ammunition, rages somewhere in Switzerland.

The nation has a fierce military tradition. Neutrality was adopted in 1515 after a defeat at the hands of the French. ("I have conquered those whom only Caesar managed to conquer before me," declared King François I.) Thereafter, many Swiss served as mercenaries; their earnings launched several of the nation's famous banks. Napoleon's assessment was simply, "The best troops . . . are the Swiss." To this day, the Pope retains 90 Swiss Guards at the Vatican.

During World War II, the Swiss mobilized several times to deter threatened attacks from Nazi Germany. In a few cases, they probably had to compromise their own neutrality to save it. Hitler, for example, demanded and seems to have won the right to send German trains carrying war materiel through Switzerland on their way to Italy.

The Soviets, the officially unacknowledged foe of today's Swiss Army, seem to view Switzerland "as a kind of capitalist Alamo," notes McPhee. Indeed, if Swiss forward defenses did not hold, the Army would probably retreat into the mountains and dare the enemy to follow. As the Swiss say, "Switzerland does not have an army. Switzerland is an army."

A Free Market Flop in Chile?

"The Rise and Fall of the Chicago Boys in Chile" by Paul E. Sigmund, in *The SAIS Review* (Summer/Fall 1983), 1740 Massachusetts Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Chile's nine-year-long experiment with Milton Friedman's brand of monetarist free-market economics came to an unhappy end in 1983. Sigmund, a Princeton political scientist, recalls the promising start of the test and asks what went wrong.

A Chilean corps of University of Chicago–trained Friedman disciples took over the nation's inflationary, government-run economy when a military junta headed by Augusto Pinochet replaced Marxist Salvador Allende in 1973. They quickly ended controls on prices and interest