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**NEW TITLES**


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*History*

**1676: The End of  
American Independence**  
by Stephen Saunders Webb  
Knopf, 1984  
440 pp. \$25



One gift of the master historian, it is said, is a knack for attributing "unexpected importance to uncelebrated dates." The year 1676, one of plague, Indian insurrection, and civil strife in the American colonies, was also the year in which the colonists lost their independence, according to Webb, a Syracuse University historian. Preoccupied with its own problems (including civil war in England and rebellion in Ireland), Britain had allowed the colonies virtual autonomy beginning in the late 1630s. But the reign of colonial oligarchs foundered in '76: Virginia colonists, angered by Governor William Berkeley's failure to provide adequate defenses against the Indians, took up arms against their government in what became known as Bacon's Rebellion. In New England, similar turmoil followed King Philip's War, an uprising of Algonquin and Iroquois Indians, led by Metacomb ("King Philip") as "revenge on the puritans." Fighting during this year cost more lives, in proportion to population, than any other war in American history. The English Crown, its own troubles finally over, responded with both troops and absolutist decrees to American appeals for civil order, economic reorganization, and protection. Hitherto semi-independent colonial capitals such as Boston and Jamestown ceded authority to the headquarters of England's continental empire at Fort James, New York City. Ironically, Webb observes, the English intervention created stable geographic boundaries, a prospering economy, and political assemblies, thus paving the way for revolution 100 years later.

**ZHOU ENLAI:  
A Biography**  
by Dick Wilson  
Viking, 1984  
349 pp. \$17.95

During the battered Chinese Red Army's 1934-35 Long March, Zhou Enlai made a decision that shaped subsequent Chinese history: He acknowledged his errors of leadership—both military and political—and prepared the way for Mao Zedong,

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whom he for years had criticized, to take over as the sole leader of the Chinese Communist movement. The reversal was vintage Zhou: Consistently boosting others to the top of the party bureaucracy, he did almost nothing to advance his own position. Yet he alone, among all of Mao's former superiors, "survived as a continuous member of Mao's team." Wilson, former editor of the *China Quarterly*, serves up a full life: Zhou's early years in an impoverished mandarin family; his brilliance as a student, leading to studies in France, where, in 1922, he joined the Communist Party; his role in the Red Army's struggle against, variously, the feudal warlords of Canton, Japanese invaders, and Chiang Kai-shek's Guomindang; his installation as premier of the State Council and minister of foreign affairs when the People's Republic of China was formally created by the triumphant Communists in 1949. Serving ably until his death at age 78, Zhou mixed pragmatism, intelligence, administrative acumen, and a disarming candor to survive in China's shifting political climate. "Zhou never committed the mistake of elevating policies into principles," Wilson writes, "or condemning himself to going into opposition or disgrace, when confessing 'errors' would enable him to hold down his job."

**THE HAYMARKET  
TRAGEDY**

by Paul Avrich  
Princeton, 1984  
535 pp. \$29.50

Among the offshoots of what Richard Hofstadter once described as the "paranoid style" of American politics have been periodic "Red scare" episodes. In this detailed narrative, Queens College historian Avrich investigates the first such scare. It grew out of a workers' protest meeting, organized by anarchists in Chicago's Haymarket Square on May 4, 1886. Near the end of the peaceful gathering, the police inexplicably arrived. When someone hurled a bomb into their ranks, wounding several (of whom seven later died), the police responded by firing blindly into the crowd. The civilian toll: some 40 dead or wounded. Though the bomb thrower was never identified, eight local radicals were