

stronger policies than did civilians, as in Vietnam after 1965. For better or worse, "military advice," says Betts, "has been most persuasive [to Presidents] as a veto of the use of force and least potent when it favored force."

Contemporary Affairs

THE JEWS

by Chaim Bermant
Times Books, 1977
278 pp. \$12.50
L of C 77-79020
ISBN 0-8129-0705-1

"It's good to be a Jew, which is a somewhat un-Jewish thing to say, for Jews are rather more accustomed to hugging their wounds than counting their blessings." So begins this perceptive book by Bermant, a Glasgow Rabbinical College graduate, novelist, and historian. He believes that Sigmund Freud and the revolutionary Marxist Rosa Luxemburg exemplify "the inherited Jewish capacity to stand their ground in the face of all opposition." Others (the Rothschilds, Marc Chagall, Sandy Koufax, Leon Trotsky, Fanny Brice) reveal such traits of the Jewish psyche as a mixture of pride and diffidence stemming from the idea of God's Chosen; studiousness; a near-obsession with health; a strong propensity for charity; and "a pronounced sense of guilt." In Bermant's view, there is less anti-Semitism in the world today than ever before, but he sees American Jewry in the '70s as "waiting for the backlash." The psychological effects of the Holocaust linger on: "To have one's existence made a capital offense," he writes, "is not a fact which can fade quickly from the memory."

ARAB POLITICS: The Search for Legitimacy
by Michael C. Hudson
Yale, 1977, 434 pp. \$22.50
L of C 77-75379
ISBN 0-300-02043-0

It makes sense to treat Arab politics as a whole. This attempt, the first in English to discuss in one book each of the 18 Arab states plus the stateless Palestinians, deserves praise despite its flaws. Hudson, director of the Center for Arab Studies at Georgetown University, examines the elements of Arab identity, the treatment of religions and ethnic minorities, the legacies of imperialism, and modernization. He finds throughout the Arab world an inability to open political participation to enough of the people to build needed

support for shaky regimes. But how much participation can there be in countries whose economies, oil-rich though many now are, extend in a real sense to only a fraction of the citizenry? Hudson does not say. His capsule surveys of the politics of individual Arab states have some shortcomings: Tunisia, which now faces a struggle over who shall succeed Habib Bourguiba, is cited as the most stable of all Arab countries; the Palestinians' views are uncritically accepted and their unity exaggerated; failure to examine the role of the non-Arab southern Sudanese makes the description of Sudan short-sighted. However, the portraits of Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, and Saudi Arabia are excellent. And in sketching the recent politics of such little-known new states as the People's Democratic Republic of South Yemen and the United Arab Emirates, Hudson is an enlightening guide. His book, a good start, should encourage successors.

LYING: Moral Choice in Public and Private Life
by Sissela Bok
Pantheon, 1978
326 pp. \$10.95
L of C 77-88779
ISBN 0-394-41370-0

Her main task in this book, as blunt as truth, was not, writes Harvard Medical School ethics teacher Sissela Bok, "to produce a sordid catalogue of falsehoods and corrupt dealings." Nor was it "to go over once again what each day's newspaper reveals about deception in high places." Her interest is in the "vexing dilemmas of ordinary life . . . which beset those who think that their lies are too insignificant to matter much, and others who believe that lying can protect someone or benefit society." Appendixes skillfully excerpting works by Augustine, Aquinas, Bacon, Grotius, Kant, and others occupy 38 pages of the text, but the remaining argument is Bok's own. A moralist who avoids moralizing, she analyzes the effects on trust of lies of various kinds. She examines the excuses and justifications put forward by public officials (including honest ones) for lying "in the national interest"; by physicians, lawyers, and other professionals "protecting" patients, clients, and peers; and by social scientists practicing deception in the name of research. Her conclusion: "Some lies—notably minor white lies and emergency lies rapidly acknowl-