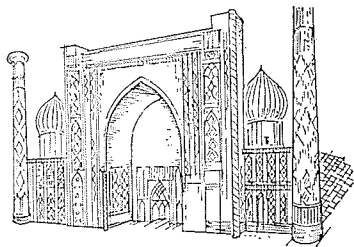

PAPERBOUNDS

THE ARABS. By Peter Mansfield. Penguin, 1985. 527 pp. \$6.95

In this revised edition of his *Arab World*, Mansfield, a former British diplomat and journalist, recounts the history of Arab civilization from pre-Islamic times to the present. Mansfield's large canvas is crammed with telling details. One learns, for instance, that Mohammad at first encouraged converts to his monotheistic creed to face Jerusalem while praying; only when he failed to win over the Jews (whose religion he greatly admired) did he order his Arab followers to face Mecca. The last third of Mansfield's book surveys the modern Arab world, where striking contrasts in national wealth have produced few surges of fraternal charity. While the Sudanese struggle to fend off starvation, the profligate spenders of oil-rich Dubai have made their tiny emirate on the Persian Gulf "the second largest importer of Swiss watches in the world."



THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOOD. By Iris Murdoch. Ark, 1985. 106 pp. \$5.95

On the dimly lit stages of Murdoch's fiction (e.g., *The Black Prince*), characters struggle with vexing ethical dilemmas. Motives, deeply entangled in the coils of character, are for her the proper focus of ethical discussion—in philosophy as well as in fiction. Here, she argues that most modern philos-

ophers, from European existentialists to Anglo-American logical analysts, miss the point by dealing only with observable behavior. Stuart Hampshire's claim that "anything which is to count as a definite reality must be open to several observers" typifies contemporary academic efforts to deny the importance of the private, internal reflections that precede action. Murdoch's defense of virtue as "selfless attention to reality," a lifelong effort to sharpen one's moral vision, may strike some readers as archaic. Others may find that it is just what most current philosophy so sorely lacks.

WORKER CAPITALISM: The New Industrial Relations. By Keith Bradley and Alan Gelb. MIT, 1986. 186 pp. \$6.95

Can worker-run businesses prosper? As economists Bradley and Gelb show, they not only *can*, they often do. Reviewing various experiments in industrial policy and different mixes of worker and government management, the authors turn to specific cases in Britain, Canada, France, and the United States. The examples range from extremely successful firms (such as New York's Saratoga Knitting Mill, bought out by employees in 1975), to feebler operations that eventually reverted to traditional private ownership (e.g., the French kitchen equipment manufacturer Manuest), to such outright disasters as the government-backed *Scottish Daily News*, a case of mismanaged transition. It may come as a surprise to American skeptics to learn that, on the whole, U.S. worker-run ventures have fared better than their counterparts in other nations. Furthermore, among possible industrial policies, the authors find that worker ownership makes far better economic sense than protectionist tariffs or government subsidies.