

CURRENT BOOKS

FELLOWS' CHOICE

Recent titles selected and reviewed by Fellows of the Wilson Center

BLOOD OF SPAIN: An Oral History of the Spanish Civil War

by Ronald Fraser
Pantheon, 1979
628 pp. \$15.95
L of C 78-20416
ISBN 0-394-48982-9

For nearly three years, until Francisco Franco's victorious Nationalists captured Madrid in March 1939, the Spanish Civil War polarized world opinion. The Popular Front—a quarrelsome coalition of leftist Republicans, socialists, communists, and anarchists—fielded a militia supplied with Soviet arms and a few volunteers from Britain, France, and the United States. The insurgent Nationalists deployed Spain's regular army, bolstered by aircraft, artillery, and manpower from Hitler's Germany and Mussolini's Italy. The alignments presaged World War II. For his impartial oral history, Ronald Fraser interviewed some 300 survivors. Idealistic Nationalists here air suspicions that Franco wanted a long war in order to wipe out all opposition. "The right," says an ex-leader of the Basque Nationalists, "was even worse than the left. Assassinations committed by so-called religious believers . . . were even more unpardonable than those committed by the . . . poor on the left." On the Left, the fear grew that collectivization was leading to "nothing other than the creation of two classes; the new rich and the eternal poor." Fraser's compelling account is one of disappointment and grief—on both sides.

—Geoffrey Best ('79)

THE POLITICS OF CANCER

by Samuel S. Epstein, M.D.
Sierra Club, 1978
583 pp. \$12.50
L of C 78-985
ISBN 0-87156-193-X

Scientists disagree on the amount of evidence needed to prove that a substance causes cancer; they argue, too, over when—and how—federal agencies should shield the public from carcinogens. Between 70 and 90 percent of all human cancers, writes Epstein, a University of Illinois professor of occupational and environmental medicine, are environmentally induced and can be prevented. He