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**NEW TITLES**


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*History*

**FIN DE SIÈCLE VIENNA:**  
**Politics and Culture**  
 by Carl E. Schorske  
 Knopf, 1980  
 378 pp. \$15.95

No sooner did Vienna's well-to-do professionals, academics, and merchants come into power in Austria's new parliament in the late 1860s than they lost all hope of enjoying the rewards. An entrenched Hapsburg nobility ridiculed their liberal republicanism and rebuffed their advances into high society. After the legislators broadened the franchise, lower-class Slavic nationalists, Pan-German anti-Semites, and Christian Socialists mixed parliamentary maneuvers with mass demonstrations and street brawls to paralyze the government. "The Viennese upper middle class," observes Princeton historian Schorske, "reigned though it could not rule." Out of that predicament, however, came an incredible explosion in the arts. As an escape—and, perhaps, to assert their dominance in the intellectual arena, if nowhere else—the city's *haute bourgeoisie* cultivated a passionate interest in the support of art. They took comfort in Freud's oedipal and sexual explanations of behavior. Freud, posits Schorske, provided "an a-historical theory of man and society that could make bearable a political world spun out of orbit and beyond control." Gustav Klimt's sexually explicit paintings mirrored Freud's dream theories; Otto Wagner broke with his spiritual fathers to design modernistic buildings; Arnold Schönberg's atonal music fled the diatonic scale. Even as Vienna's social fabric unraveled, its artists leaped ahead into the 20th century.

**CHINA AND THE WEST:**  
**Society and Culture,**  
**1815–1937**  
 by Jerome Ch'en  
 Ind. Univ., 1980  
 488 pp. \$22.50

Starting with Marco Polo, Westerners viewed the Chinese as dishonest, and the Chinese saw Europeans as barbarous. The situation changed—somewhat—in the period 1815–1937. This era of increased trade and travel between the Chinese and the British, French, and Americans, asserts York University histo-

From *China and the West*.

rian Ch'en, was marked by "a Western chorus denigrating China and a Chinese chorus lauding the West." Military defeats (suffered at the hands of the British, French, and Japanese) and exposure to the Western debate over the evolutionary nature of societies (via the first Mandarin translations of Herbert Spencer, John Stuart Mill, and Thomas Huxley) prompted China's leaders to question the viability of their own rule. Manchu lords and, after 1911, Sun Yat-sen and his successor, Chiang Kai-shek, yearned to emulate the aggressive and powerful West. Both the old Manchus and the republicans failed. Their unyielding loyalty to patriarchal Confucianism, with its emphasis on harmony and order, simply protected "the status quo," contends Ch'en. Meanwhile, the spectacle of the Western world coming apart during World War I disillusioned many Chinese intellectuals. In a 1923 Peking National University popularity poll, Lenin received 227 votes; Woodrow Wilson, 51. Chiang futilely experimented with Western-style reforms, mainly, the centralization of governmental power. At the same time, Chinese communists organized and trained for guerrilla action, and war with Japan loomed ahead.

**LEOPOLD II OF THE BELGIANS:**  
**King of Colonialism**  
 by Barbara Emerson  
 St. Martin's, 1980  
 324 pp. \$25

"To be a great person," Leopold II once remarked, "is not necessarily the same as being a good person." Historian Emerson's colorful biography depicts the Belgian king, who began his reign in 1865 at age 30, as shrewd and audacious—but too big for his homeland. An artful diplomat, Leopold kept his country from being annexed by powerful neighbors, notably France's Napoleon III, who regarded Belgium as a "ripe pear." At home he built up the Army and beautified Belgium's cities. But his real ambitions lay overseas. Leopold sought to buy or rent a score of Asian colonies—from Borneo to Formosa to Indochina—before deciding "to find out discreetly whether there is anything doing in Africa." With the help of American journalist-explorer H. M. Stanley, he established the