
1941) made the Court his pulpit. Before Woodrow Wilson named him an Associate Justice in 1916, Brandeis had been an inveterate reformer, fighting insurance fraud in Boston in 1905–08 and negotiating settlement of New York's 1910 garment workers' strike. Brandeis saw the Constitution as a flexible tool to be used to meet society's changing needs, writes Urofsky, a historian at Virginia Commonwealth University. But his greatest contributions to constitutional scholarship, Urofsky contends, came in vigorous minority opinions that supported free speech and the right to privacy over government claims of the need for surveillance.

**THE CONQUEST OF THE
NORTH ATLANTIC**

By G. J. Marcus
Oxford, 1981
224 pp. \$25

It was perhaps as early as A.D. 795 when the Irish made their first leap westward, to Iceland. The feat was managed, says Marcus, a British maritime historian, thanks to the development of the curach, a sturdy, single-masted, hide-covered frame canoe. But the Gaels retreated, apparently because fierce Norse settlers arrived during the 9th century. Marcus recounts how the Vikings broke out of Scandinavia—venturing to Iceland, then to Greenland—because of overpopulation at home, because of Charlemagne's assaults on northern Germany and his threats to Denmark, and, perhaps the strongest reason of all, to assuage "some secret and powerful urge like that which inspired the Crusades." Based on evidence in medieval Iceland's *Grœnlendinga Saga*, Marcus credits not Leif Ericson but Bjarni Herjólfsson (whose Viking father helped to settle Iceland) with discovering America in the late 12th century. But by 1370, the overextended Norsemen's exploratory voyages had ceased. Plague, involvement in Continental wars, and economic hardship inflicted by commercial competition from the German Hanse cities and the English heralded a period of rapid Scandinavian decline. The well-organized Hanseatic traders gained control of commerce in the North Sea and the Baltic, advancing as far as Iceland. The Brit-

ish, however, were the more enterprising voyagers. Bristol fishermen, Marcus suggests, were casting for cod in North American waters a decade or so before Genoa's favorite son set sail.

Contemporary Affairs

**THE ECONOMIC
AND SOCIAL
MODERNIZATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF
KOREA**

by Edward S. Mason et al.
Harvard, 1981
552 pp. \$20

Within 20 years after the ruinous Korean War, President Park Chung Hee (1961-79) turned South Korea into a major exporter of ships, iron and steel products, textiles, and electrical machinery. Indeed, during the 1970s, his country's growth rate (9.6 percent) surpassed that of Japan in the thick of its pre-World War II build-up. How Park accomplished this rapid expansion is explored by nine specialists from the Harvard Institute for International Development and the Korea Development Institute. Park lifted tariffs on imported raw materials and cut corporate income taxes on exports. He welcomed foreign investment and, wielding the government's authority to deny loans from abroad, he pointed Korean businessmen toward industries he wanted developed. By 1977, manufactured exports comprised 25 percent of Korea, Inc.'s GNP. The United States, which pumped \$6 billion in grants and loans into South Korea between 1945 and 1975, was a major contributor to the upswing. But U.S. efforts to promote democracy were not gratefully received; before his assassination, strong-man Park described democracy as "meaningless to people suffering from starvation and despair." During the 1974 oil crisis, however, he was able to quadruple gasoline prices overnight, an "obviously desirable measure" to force fuel conservation, say the authors, "that would have been difficult to carry out in a political democracy." The economic boom has benefited all Koreans, although, inevitably, some have prospered more than others. Korea, the authors conclude, is "a prime example of how growth can be achieved with equity."