

a special correspondent for *The Economist*. "For did not hidden demons, blind fate, the solicitations of Satan, the hot fury of one's own blood await every man in ambush at the crossroads? Why, then, change?"

CONTINUITY AND CHANGE: A Study of Two Ethnic Communities in Israel.

by Rita James Simon
Cambridge, 1978, 191 pp.
\$13.95 cloth, \$4.95 paper
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Ultra-orthodox Jews in Israel number approximately 55,000 and live mostly in the Mea Shearim section of Jerusalem. Militantly unassimilated, they cling to traditional dress styles, language (Yiddish), and religious rituals that they regard as inherently superior. They refuse military service. Urban Arabs remaining within the pre-1967 borders of Israel constitute one-third of the total 450,000 Israeli Arab population and are concentrated in five cities. They are eager to embrace education, employment, elections, radio and TV, and other aspects of the secular Israeli-Jewish society that continues to discriminate against them. This sympathetic, lucid monograph is based on interviews in both communities. Author Simon, editor of the *American Sociological Review*, concludes that the "big question" about the urban Israeli Arabs "is the extent to which their interests in the life styles of the larger Jewish society will be accepted or rejected by the gatekeepers and members of that society."

Arts & Letters

THE FEDERAL PRESENCE: Architecture, Politics, and Symbols in United States Government Building

by Lois Craig and the Staff of the Federal Architecture Project
M.I.T., 1978, 595 pp. \$37.50
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The very mention of "federal buildings" conjures up the worst in American architecture: the FBI's brutalistic "copagon," the Rayburn House Office Building, Alcatraz, or almost any local post office. Yet imperial bombast and bureaucratic tedium, in infinite combinations and variations, are not the whole story, as this rich book ably demonstrates. Its text, photographs, and drawings depict hundreds of famous and little-known projects (realized or otherwise). If at points the effect is of a visual grab bag, this very quality attests to the fickleness of public taste. Along with cookie-cutter constructions, there are brilliant designs by Thomas Jefferson, James