

poorer than the voter; (f) less educated than the voter; (g) prevented from voting by archaic regulations, fraud, difficulty of access to facilities, or threat of violence (the belief most fervently held in "the Boobus Americanus stereotype," according to Hadley). Citing statistics and delineating profiles of nonvoters gleaned from a poll that he and Robert Teeter conducted in 1976-77, the author proceeds to identify a decidedly different (often middle-class white-collar urban) composite refrainer. Since Thomas Jefferson's time, the belief has persisted that the country is best served when only a small group of educated and concerned citizens go to the polls. Hadley asks if we really want the nonvoters to vote (his own answer? a resounding "yes") and concludes with suggestions on how to get refrainers to exercise their rights. Among them: postal card registration; making "V-Day" a holiday in federal election years.

**EGYPT'S UNCERTAIN
REVOLUTION UNDER
NASSER AND SADAT**

by Raymond William Baker
Harvard, 1978, 300 pp. \$16
L of C 78-18356
ISBN 0-674-24154-1

SHAHHAT: An Egyptian

by Richard Critchfield
Syracuse, 1978, 258 pp.
\$12.95 cloth, \$6.95 paper
L of C 78-11945
ISBN 0-8156-2202-3
0-8156-0151-4 pbk

Egypt's modern leaders, in the view of Baker, a Williams College political scientist, have embraced "bureaucratic feudalism." Egyptians as a people have escaped "a situation of colonial dependency only by a new dependency on the cleverness of their authoritarian rulers." He finds both the late Gamal Abdul Nasser, who led the 1952 coup against the monarchy, and Anwar es-Sadat, who succeeded Nasser in 1970, fundamentally distrustful of the masses. Their failure to provide an ideology or working political institutions has left life in Egypt disrupted but not transformed.

The Aswan dam on the Nile has ended thousands of years of annual flooding in the villages of Upper Egypt where Shahhat, the impetuous young peasant vividly portrayed in Critchfield's book, pursues his life. Yet neither this nor various other forms of government intervention have substantially improved his lot, and new layers of seemingly irrational regulation have been imposed on him and his neighbors. Life to the sturdy Egyptian *fellah* has always seemed to lack order and reason, however, writes Critchfield,

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
L of C 77-15090
ISBN 0-521-21938-8
0-521-29318-9 pbk

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
L of C 78-15366
ISBN 0-262-03057-8

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