

the inefficacy of their "crisis management" approach and, furthermore, through diversion of effort, cost America its nuclear edge. While Gaddis deals only briefly with more recent administrations, his main point is likely to hold: Shifts in U.S. policy respond less to Soviet moves than to turnover in the White House.

**MARKETS AND STATES
IN TROPICAL AFRICA:**

**The Political Basis of
Agricultural Policies**

by Robert H. Bates
Univ. of Calif., 1981
178 pp. \$19.50

Over the past decade, farm output in most sub-Saharan nations has been on the decline. Bates, a political scientist at the California Institute of Technology, shows how government leaders, some trying to bolster nascent industries, others simply lining their pockets, have intervened in the agricultural markets, cutting peasant producers' income and prompting many to quit the land. Leaders of countries such as Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, and Zaire, often working through state marketing boards (set up by colonial governments to stabilize food prices), have lowered food prices in order to provide cheap sustenance for city dwellers. At the same time, they have failed to provide small farmers with subsidies for seed, fertilizer, and farm machinery. Because domestic industries are protected from competition, farmers must pay higher prices for manufactured goods. As a result, many potentially self-sufficient African nations are now forced to import food. Peasant farmers are left with so little hope that those who remain on the land deal increasingly through black markets. Unless African leaders sacrifice short-term political advantages and personal financial gain for more balanced agricultural policies, warns Bates, they are apt to face steeper economic decline and political upheaval.

EQUALITIES

by Douglas Rae et al.
Harvard, 1981
210 pp. \$19.50

Equality, as the ideal behind public policies such as affirmative action and bilingual education, has become its own most consistent adversary. Seldom in policy debates do we find an argument for equality pitted against

one for inequality; more often, the problem is a "conflict of equalities." To show how the abstract principle becomes, in practice, a number of rival notions, and to help clear up the contradictions, Rae and four political science colleagues have laid down guidelines for evaluating programs intended to foster equality: Who are the individuals or groups contending for equality? What specific goods are being sought—money, jobs, the exercise of rights? Are policymakers attempting to distribute goods or the opportunity to earn them? And how well do the goods actually match up with the preferences of the beneficiaries? Failure to consider these and other questions thoughtfully often produces unintended results. Promoting equal opportunity will not guarantee equal success to all. And correcting inequalities resulting from sexism or racism may require preferential treatment, another form of inequality. The authors show that, although equality is almost everywhere prescribed, inequality almost everywhere survives.

Arts & Letters

MONET AT ARGENTEUIL
by Paul Hayes Tucker
Yale, 1982
224 pp. \$29.95

A master of French impressionism, Claude Monet (1840–1926) has long been characterized as a painter who valued pleasing visual effect to the exclusion of content or ideas. Looking at the development of Monet's art during the seven years he spent in the Parisian suburb of Argenteuil, Tucker, an art historian at the University of Massachusetts, refutes this view. When the 31-year-old Monet arrived in Argenteuil, he was an established artist, a married man, in many ways a typical French *bourgeois*. Like most of his class, he was struck by the rapid economic recovery his country was making in the aftermath of the costly Franco-Prussian War (1870–71), and a number of his pre-Argenteuil paintings favorably depicted images of progress—factories, trains. Yet, a dedicated landscape painter, he could not ignore the destruction visited upon his beloved Nature by the for-