

**Johnson, Lawrence H. *Winged Sabers: The Air Cavalry in Vietnam, 1965-73.***

Stackpole. Oct. 1990. c.192p. photogs. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-8117-1857-3. \$24.95. MILITARY STUDIES

Conversion of the cavalry arm of the Army from horses to vehicles removed much of that service's reconnaissance role; switching to helicopters returned it. This copiously illustrated volume documents the use of Vietnam as the proving ground for this new weapon. Johnson concentrates on the military organization of the Air Cavalry troop and the changes combat required. He outlines tactics and the various helicopters and their typical weapons and performance. Johnson also includes sections on all the Air Cavalry units, their insignia and uniforms, with appropriate illustrations, and presents a typical unit commander's diary as vivid illustration of what command of an understaffed unit in a busy area in 1969 was like. Libraries with an emphasis on this subject must have this; moderate recommendation to others.—*Mel D. Lane, Sacramento, Cal.*

Laqueur, Walter.

**Stalin: The Glasnost Revelations.**

Robert Stewart Bk. Scribner. Oct. 1990. c.480p. index. LC 90-32253. ISBN 0-684-19203-9. \$24.95.

INT AFFAIRS

In this comprehensive book, Soviet scholar Laqueur (*Soviet Realities*, LJ 12/1/89) discusses the range of Soviet opinion about Stalin and the subtleties of Soviet historiography on the Stalin era, particularly the new "mythology" created by Soviet writers who blame Trotsky for Stalinism and the unauthorized and indefatigable efforts of Dmitri Yurasov to amass data on the consequences of the dictator's reign. An appendix includes translations of the 1989 report of the Soviet party's Politburo Commission on the Moscow trials. The author's comparison of Stalin to Hitler and Mussolini adds little to what is already known, and it is often unclear if Laqueur intends a historical work or a work on Soviet historiography. Nevertheless, the book is on a par with Roy Medvedev's massive *Let History Judge* (LJ 6/1/89) and is a superb effort of value to all academic and public libraries.—*Zachary T. Irwin, Pennsylvania State Univ., Erie*

**Mosher, Steven W. *China Misperceived: American Illusions and Chinese Reality.***

New Republic: Basic Bks. Nov. 1990. c.288p. index. LC 90-80246. ISBN 0-465-09805-3. \$22.95. INT AFFAIRS

American views of China over the past 50 years have oscillated between exaggerated fears and excessive enthusiasms. In his acerbic review of the academic and journalistic literature on China, conservative scholar Mosher contends that the left-liberal establishment has consistently gotten China wrong. Attacking the credulity and fatuousness of the China studies profession, he undoubtedly hits quite a

few legitimate targets, but his polemic is too sweeping and undifferentiated. He fails to get at the roots of the misperceptions he discovers. Mosher himself, unfairly expelled from Stanford's anthropology doctoral program on questionable charges of professional misconduct, understandably nurses a grudge against the China studies establishment. This book is his revenge, but it is no less worth reading and pondering by a community that has in fact too often gotten China wrong.—*Steven I. Levine, Duke Univ., Durham, N.C.*

★**Timerman, Jacobo. *Cuba: A Journey.***

Knopf. Oct. 1990. c.128p. tr. from Spanish by Toby Talbot. ISBN 0-394-53910-9. \$18.95. INT AFFAIRS

In the summer of 1987, Argentine journalist and human rights activist Timerman (*Prisoner Without a Name, Cell Without a Number*, LJ 5/15/81) made a four-week visit to Cuba. This brief but potent report of his travels provides a revealing look at the decline of Fidel Castro's "socialist experiment," although Timerman also notes that Castro's "megalomania . . . [and a] collective supporting hypocrisy . . . [still] defines society, the power structure, cultural life, work, family relations." Unlike most visiting journalists, Timerman did not meet with Castro. Instead, he spent his time with ordinary Cubans as well as writers (Miguel Barnet), journalists (Rolando Cartaya), and Elizardo Sanchez, a political activist and visionary. He also discusses Gabriel García Márquez's influence on Castro, the enduring presence of Hemingway in Cuba, and the pervasiveness of prostitution and sexuality in Cuban life. While Timerman's moral outrage is tempered in this work, he nevertheless serves up an indictment of a political system that is comparable to his recent investigation of the right-wing dictatorship in Chile (*Chile: Death in the South*, LJ 1/88). Highly recommended for international affairs collections.—*Thomas A. Karel, Franklin and Marshall Coll. Lib., Lancaster, Pa.*

## Psychology

**Bruner, Jerome. *Acts of Meaning.***

Harvard Univ. Pr. Oct. 1990. c.160p. ISBN 0-674-00360-8. \$19.95. PSYCH

A psychologist and educator, and a pioneer in the field of cognition, Bruner provides an outline for a new synthesis of inquiry into mind and culture. The book consists of the 1989-90 Jerusalem-Harvard lectures divided into four chapters. The first, "The Proper Study of Man," is a critique of the current antihistorical, anticultural bias of cognitive psychology, especially its information-processing model of the mind. "Folk Psychology as an Instrument of Culture" asserts that culturally shaped notions, stories, and narratives organize experience and manage expectations. "Entry into Meaning" views the beginnings of social

understanding as a capacity to render experience in terms of narrative discourse (to be in a culture is to be in a set of connecting stories). Finally, "Autobiography and Self" illustrates the classic concept of Self from the perspective of cultural psychology—that "selves are not isolated nuclei of consciousness locked in the head, but are 'distributed' interpersonally." A challenging manifesto for a cultural psychology by a major figure in the field.—*William Abrams, Portland State Univ. Lib., Ore.*

**Isaac, Rael Jean & Virginia C. Armat. *Madness in the Streets: How Psychiatry and the Law Abandoned the Mentally Ill.***

Free Pr. 1990. c.450p. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-02-915380-8. \$24.95. PSYCH

Isaac and Armat, a sociologist and a journalist, respectively, look retrospectively at the causes behind the deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill in the 1970s—a phenomena they abhor. Their solution to this monstrous error is to combine community services with active psychiatric treatment. Chapters expose how the "madness myth" started with anti-psychiatry proponents R.D. Laing and Thomas Szasz, ex-patient groups, and radical psychiatrists like Jeffrey Masson. The authors also lambast lawyers who eliminated involuntary commitment and sued hospitals and doctors for failure to treat. But perhaps the most riveting portion of this well-researched, disturbing, and lucid expository is the devastation wreaked on families by untreated relatives afflicted with mental illness. A good companion to Ann Braden Johnson's *Out of Bedlam* (LJ 9/1/90). Recommended for larger collections.—*Janice Arenofsky, formerly with Arizona State Lib., Phoenix*

**Masson, Jeffrey Moussaieff. *Final Analysis: The Making and Unmaking of a Psychoanalyst.***

Addison-Wesley. Nov. 1990. c.256p. LC 90-38639. ISBN 0-201-52368-X. \$18.95. PSYCH

A former projects director of the Sigmund Freud Archives, Masson claims that he was fired for espousing and publicizing views concerning the sexual abuse of children that radically challenged psychoanalytic theories. Since then, he has been a thorn in the side of mental health professionals with his searing critiques of therapy. Here he abandons his formidable research skills for a personal glimpse into how, in his training and psychoanalytic career, he too became enmeshed in the mystique that psychoanalysis could cure unhappiness and that analysts were all wise and moral. Although Masson describes with great candor his wasted analysis, his rise in the elite inner circle, and his close ties with Kurt Eissler and Anna Freud, this is no autobiography but rather an attempt to knock psychoanalysis from its pedestal once and for all. Recommended.—*Janice Arenofsky, formerly with Arizona State Lib., Phoenix*