

tant of which is securing access to necessary raw materials. Unfortunately for these Leninists of the Right, the economic interpretation of conflict continues to lack sufficient persuasive power, as there exists a plethora of evidence pointing to the presence of non-economic causes of war.

While this book has its drawbacks, there are some useful sections. Despite what I have said about alarmist notions of resource war, it still remains the case that a connection can be drawn between a state's industrial capacity and its military potential. Unless we are entering a new era of history, it does appear that we can expect to observe that the international system's most powerful members will continue to possess a strong industrial base. Mineral supply is, of course, only one constituent of a country's "defence industrial base," but one can say that, at least for the United States, the complications associated with interdependence first began to appear in this sector, and have since been showing up in sectors that are further "downstream" in the production process. As more than one of the contributors points out, whatever the economic logic of interdependence, it can and does present security dilemmas for a country like the United States. The pity is that this book, in attempting to sound the clarion against a bogus challenge, does not provide sufficient insight into the real problem, for as one of the authors, Paul Maxwell, observes, "Failure to remain competitive in a harsh international economic environment leaves us vulnerable to our allies, as well as our foes."

David Haglund is Director of the Centre for International Relations at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario.

Remember 1986?

by John R. Walker

The Annual Register, A Record of World Events 1986 edited by H.V. Hodson. Detroit: Gale Research Co. (original publisher Longman Group of London), 1987, 578 pages, US\$100.00.

The Annual Register is — for those unaware of its existence — a venerable ency-

clopedia of history-in-the-making. After all, Edmund Burke was its first editor in 1758, and now its 228th volume has appeared for 1986 under the guidance of the former editor of the London *Sunday Times*, H.V. Hodson.

The record of world events consists of essays outlining the principal events of the year in each country, grouped under regional chapters. There are also reviews of the activities of international organizations such as the United Nations, the Commonwealth, the European Community, and other associations from Comecon to the Non-Aligned Movement. Chapters dealing with specific subjects such as defence and arms control, the sciences, the law, the arts, sport, religion and economic and social affairs fill out this comprehensive yet succinct record of the past year.

There is also a handy chronicle of events, brief obituaries of the famous and the notable, and a reference section that includes, for instance, the entire report of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons' Group on South Africa and the communiqué of the Tokyo summit, as well as statistical data.

The articles are generally well written, short but not scanty of important information, and often providing reports on significant news of a country that the world's press neglected to cover. They are written by nearly 100 different experts in their fields, some well known, others not. The majority appear to be academics, and as a British project a great many of them are from British universities. This British tone does not seem to skew the assessments in most of the summaries. But it does result in thirty-nine pages being devoted to the United Kingdom, and only seventeen pages to the United States in the year of Irangate, the Iceland summit and the raid on Libya. And the USSR, in the year of glasnost and Chernobyl, is covered in eight pages.

Canada is summed up in five pages by Carleton University historian David Far, who leads off with the falling fortunes of Prime Minister Mulroney, whose credibility in 1986 "was damaged by an irresolute manner, a tendency to exaggeration, and a fierce partisanship."

But as the preface to this *Annual Register* says: "Politically, 1986 was a year of disappointments. The greatest of these was the Reykjavik summit, which had started with sudden high hopes and ended with fundamental disagreement on the link between nuclear disarmament and the SDI,

amid nervous anxiety in Western Europe about the impact of superpower policies."

This annual record is obviously for the reference library as a useful starter for researchers, or as a helpful addition to a personal library, since its 578 pages are encompassed in a book no larger than a good novel.

John R. Walker is a freelance foreign affairs columnist for Southam News based in Ottawa.

Workers and their friends

by John Harker

International Labour and the Third World: The Making of a New Working Class edited by Rosalind E. Boyd, Robin Cohen and Peter C. W. Gutkind. Brookfield, Vermont: Gower Publishing Company, 1987, 282 pages, US\$56.95.

The collection of papers which constitutes this volume is the fruit of the labors of three editors, seventeen contributors, and, indirectly, thirty researchers from fourteen countries. It grew out of the presentations given during a "fervent year of Seminar activities."

The publishers emphasize that the contributors to this collection are at the center of a developing debate concerning the international role of the working class and other dominated classes such as the peasantry and the working poor. The nature of the debate comes out as clearly as anything else in the 274 pages, and at their end this reviewer was convinced that the "debaters" are those whose academic work is presented and analyzed in this book, and the intended audience is their peers and not the community outside.

The book is a construct of four parts, dealing with theoretical perspectives, Class Formation and Labour Movement, the International Division of Labour, and a Bibliography which "grapples with the various tendencies within the new wave of labour scholarship and praxis." The very first chapter, on "theorising international labour," sets out various models of analysis, most of which are characterized as being restricted, in the sense of not being helpful, to the attempts by "academics, intellectuals, and labour activists" to define a