

Books Received

The Comeback Kid: The Life and Career of Bill Clinton, by Charles F. Allen and Jonathan Portis, Birch Lane Press, New York, 1992, 294 pages, hardbound, \$18.95.

JFK: The CIA, Vietnam, and the Plot to Assassinate John F. Kennedy, by L. Fletcher Prouty, Carol Publishing, New York, 1992, 366 pages, hardbound, \$22.

Destiny Betrayed: JFK, Cuba, and the Garrison Case, by James DiEugenio, Sheridan Square Press, New York, 1992, 423 pages, hardbound, \$19.95.

Profiles of War, Inside the Secret U.S.-Israeli Arms Network, by Ari Ben Menashe, Sheridan Square Press, New York, 1992, 394 pages, hardbound, \$24.95.

Honored and Betrayed, by Richard Secord, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1992, 405 pages, hardbound, \$24.95.

Castro's Final Hour: The Secret Story Behind the Coming Downfall of Communist Cuba, by Andres Openheimer, Simon & Schuster, New York, 1992, 461

pages, hardbound, \$25.

Kissinger, A Biography, by Walter Isaacson, Simon & Schuster, New York, 1992, 893 pages, hardbound, \$30.

Lincoln's Loyalists, Union Soldiers and the Confederacy, by Richard Nelson Current, Northeastern University Press, Boston, 1992, 253 pages, hardbound, \$21.95.

We Were Always Free: The Maddens of Culpeper County, Virginia, by T.O. Madden with Ann Miller, W.W. Norton, New York, 1992, 169 pages, hardbound, \$19.95.

The Guns of the South, by Harry Turtledove, Ballantine, New York, 1992, 480 pages, hardbound, \$19.

Margaret Wise Brown: Awakened by the Moon, by Leonard S. Marcus, Beacon Press, Boston, 1992, 377 pages, hardbound, \$25.

Space Policy, An Introduction, by Nathan C. Goldman, Iowa State University Press, Ames, Iowa, 1992, 321 pages, hardbound, \$37.95.

Reflections on Kurt Gödel, by Hao Wang, MIT Press, Cambridge, Mass., 1990, 336 pages, paperbound, \$13.95.

And, concluded Yureneva, one of the "dangerous intrigues" of the camarilla "against the tsar and society" was the Russo-Japanese War.

Witte, who died in 1915, in a posthumously delivered letter to Nicholas, pleaded with him to keep the constitution: "This is your undying service to your people and to humanity," he wrote.

Queen Victoria's legacy

Of course, Nicholas II was not the only short-sighted ruler in Europe prior to World War I. Despite the fact that King George V ("Georgie") of England, Kaiser Wilhelm ("Willi") of Germany, and Nicholas ("Nikki") were all cousins through their grandmother, Queen Victoria, even before 1914 the events had been set into motion which doomed two of the three dynasties and created out of the Versailles Treaty a new geopolitical system.

Yet, for Radzinsky, questions of international strategy are overshadowed by his obsession with ferreting out the truth about the Romanov assassinations. Thanks to glasnost and a lot of sleuthing, Radzinsky, a former state archivist, was able to get his hands on previously classified firsthand documents about the murders. The existence of the assassins' written descriptions of the event had been denied.

Like a dedicated "Who shot JFK?" conspirophile, Rad-

zinsky spends a good deal of time detailing the who, what, when, where, and how of the murders. He discusses questions like whose gun it was that killed the tsar.

And, inevitably, the question of possible survivors is discussed. Did anyone survive? If so, who? Anastasia? Tatiana? The heir, Alexei? The parlormaid? How many gravesites were there? Or were the bodies burned?

Russia again at the crossroads

Today, once again, the former Soviet Union—and the entire rest of the world—is at a crossroads. The system created after World Wars I and II no longer functions, but neither would a return to the allegedly "benign" despotism of monarchical rule; and the world should certainly shudder at the idea of a "new 1917" currently being mooted by some in Russia.

Neither Bolshevism nor tsarism should be resurrected from their graves. Instead, it is time for Russians—for all peoples—to heed the voice of Count Witte, who successfully worked for economic and political reform with both Nicholas's father (Alexander III) and Nicholas's grandfather (Alexander II, the Tsar-Liberator). Witte understood that only a commitment by each nation-state to uplifting all of its people could create the basis for lasting international peace.

That was the lesson which Nicholas II, the last tsar, refused to learn.