

## Political Megastar

CLR James' meticulous class analysis sometimes obscures the black perspective and analysis of racism which one would expect from a man of his history and experience. But his intellect, breadth of interests and sheer longevity make CLR James one of the political megastars of this century.

**CLR James, His Life and Work** edited by Paul Buhle Allison & Busby £5.95 pbk. offers a fascinating collection of critiques, reviews and speculations about James' life and work. The jigsaw spans his influence and involve-



ment in African, American, European and Caribbean politics, as well as his output as a fiction and sports writer.

Indeed it's as James the cricket writer that his political analysis comes across best. **Cricket Allison & Busby** £14.95 hbk. is a collection of his writings on the subject. For James, to analyse cricket is to analyse the class nature of British society and one of the symbols of colonialism. A comment made in 1957 sums it up: 'By cricket I mean not only the game but the code connected with it'. ●

Trevor Carter

**Women world-wide Women in the World: an international atlas** by Joni Seager and Ann Olson Pan £7.95 pbk. gives a pretty but impressionistic view of women's lives world-wide, reducing reality to maps and numbers. Some interesting correlations emerge; seclusion and early marriages occurring in countries where there is no sex tourism or beauty queen contests.

But when women's oppressions and freedoms vary so fundamentally throughout the world perhaps any attempt to quantify and compare across cultures will provoke the banal. An example: 'high status' is attributed to women in the West, while 'unknown status' is attributed to those in the USSR.

**Women in the World** may be useful for highlighting some less complex points, but it is a disappointing depiction of women's many varied lives. ●

Haleh Afshar

## Body Packaging

The Conran of cosmetics, Anita Roddick, founder of The Body Shop has in 10 years created one of the most successful franchise businesses of the 80s. In **The Body Shop** by G Mackay and A Corke Pan, Anita Roddick's story is told. Or as she puts it: 'Natural' products, no animal testing, no advertising, and a refusal to 'create false needs by playing on women's fears of lost beauty'.

But part of the Body Shop's success is that it plays on our distrust of the glossy sophistication of cosmetic companies, while relying on their advertising to create demand for its beauty products.

Yet environmentally concerned and successful is a great thing to be. The charm of the 'natural' is enhanced by attractive packaging, constant product development, sophisticated merchandising and creative PR - producing a dynamic retail concept with enormous appeal.

As a book **The Body Shop** won't tell you *how* it's been done - or about the 'hard' details of franchising and finance. Glossy descriptions of the business's development make it clear that Anita Roddick is a zealous entrepreneur with a superb feel for hype. It's no wonder that a book about her reads like an over-long press release. ●

Catherine Luyster

## Vines and Wines

Just as winemakers are tempted to increase the alcohol level of their product by adding sugar (or worse), so wine writers too often fall into the trap of a language larded with pretentious and inappropriate adjectives. Not so, I'm glad to say, **Jancis Robinson**, best known for her path-breaking tv series on wine.

**Vines, Grapes and Wines Mitchell Beazley** £16.95 hbk. is, astonishingly, the first comprehensive English-language survey of the most important material element in the make-up of a particular wine - the grape variety or varieties used by the grower. Beside this, the 'south-facing slope', 'vigneron's craft' or 'flinty soil' so beloved of traditional wine writers is of minor importance.

Informatively but with a light touch, Jancis Robinson takes us through both the famous varieties which make up the great wines of France and also hundreds of lesser, but equally interesting, grape types used elsewhere in France, other European countries and wherever else wine is made and enjoyed, from China to Sussex. ●

Stephen Hayward

## Child Sexploitation

**Judith Ennew's The Sexual Exploitation of Children**, Polity Press £5.95 pbk and **Alice Miller's 'Thou Shalt Not Be Aware': society's betrayal of the child** Pluto £5.95 pbk both tackle the increasingly publicised subject of child sexual abuse. Psychoanalyst Alice Miller rightly challenges some of the basic tenets of orthodox psycho-analytic theory (such as the drive and Oedipus theories) which have dominated in a very negative way our perception and handling of sexual abuse this century. The book promises a radical reappraisal of approaches to child sexuality. But Miller's deep roots in those same psycho-analytic modes of thought, and her esoteric meandering into, among others, Kafka's psyche makes for heavy reading.

As a result some valid points, such as our reluctance to face up to the abused child's rage, lose their impact. Sadly 'Thou Shalt Not Be Aware' is destined to gather dust on the shelves of academics and psychiatrists.

**Judith Ennew's The Sexual Exploitation of Children** is, in contrast, succinct and informative. She covers a wide range of child sexual abuse, including prostitution and pornography, making comprehensive use of both historical and cross-cultural material.

Stressing children's position of

powerlessness within the family, Ennew makes no apologies for the fact that her book is as much about power as sex. Her argument that child sexual abuse is an extreme manifestation of prevailing social and sexual values is credible but very uncomfortable.

Contradictory views of child sexuality exist side by side in our society; we see children as total innocents, while also possessing a strong sensuality. In fact I think it is true to say that, while children have an awareness of pleasurable body sensations, to



equate this with adult sexuality is to attempt to excuse and rationalise our exploitation of them.

**The Sexual Exploitation of Children** raises difficult, complex questions to which there are no easy answers. Nevertheless, answers must be urgently found both to prevent the continued abuse of children and to give children the rights they so clearly need. ●

Kath Parr



## A Proud Past

**John Gorman's Banner Bright: An Illustrated History of Trade Union Banners** Scorpion £19.50 hbk/£9.95 pbk shows the often proud, but also poignant, face of the British labour movement

past. Here the 'apostle of British socialism', Keir Hardie, is born aloft by the miners of Heworth colliery. Made to celebrate the nationalisation of the coal industry, the banner now lies at rest in a museum.



# Lawrence & Wishart – celebrating fifty years of publishing

## Shattering Illusions:

West Indians in British Politics  
**Trevor Carter**  
with Jean Coussins

With a combination of personal testimony and political analysis, *Shattering Illusions* traces the impact of the West Indian community on British politics since the 1950s, from the period of so-called integration to the present challenge to institutional racism and the fight for genuine race equality. £3.95 paperback

## The Professor

A Novel by **Rex Warner**

Introduced by Arnold Rattenbury  
Menaced by fascism at home and abroad, an unnamed country appoints a Professor as Chancellor, to defend the liberal values in which he so profoundly believes. The maelstrom into which he and his country are thrown is the background to this extraordinary and enduring novel of the 1930s. A perfectly accomplished allegory, Christopher Isherwood remarked on the 'wield, dreamlike quality' of its style. £4.95 paperback

## Jew Boy

A novel by  
**Simon Blumenfeld**

Introduced by Ken Worpole

Living in East London in the 1930s – an area which combined tremendous exuberance and vitality with more than its share of sweat-shops, poverty and squalor – Alec is a young tailor reaching out for a better life. While Zionism attracts some of his contemporaries, Alec falls in with an unemployed agitator who is not only black but has visited Moscow... '... does for Whitechapel what *Love on the Dole* has done for Manchester and Salford...' – *Time and Tide*  
£4.95 paperback

## The Signal Was Spain:

The Aid Spain Movement in Britain, 1936-39

**Jim Fyrth**

During the Spanish Civil War, more than 200 British men and women went to Spain to work with medical services or relief organisations, and a number gave their lives. Others collected huge amounts of money and food to relieve hunger in Republican Spain, and 4,000 refugee children were received and cared for by volunteers. Using diaries, letters and interviews, this book recreates the stirring story of one of the most spontaneous and inspiring expressions of international solidarity this country has ever seen.

£17.50 hardback £6.95 paperback  
Illustrated and with maps



**Lawrence & Wishart**  
39 Museum Street, London WC1A 1LQ

## ★ ISRAEL ★ ROSA LUXEMBURG

★ ROSA ★ REFORMISM ★ MARXISM

Autumn titles

### ISRAEL: THE HIJACK STATE

by *John Rose*

Examines the political undercurrents beneath the bloodshed and injustice that have marked the history of Israel, taking as its starting-point Israel's self-chosen role as 'America's watchdog'. 80 pages. £1.95

### THE MASS STRIKE

by *Rosa Luxemburg*

The path-breaking book by the Polish revolutionary Rosa Luxemburg in which she examines the role of the mass strike in bringing the Russian revolution of 1905. A socialist classic. £1.95

### BAILING OUT THE SYSTEM

Reformist socialism in Western Europe 1944-1985

by *Ian Birchall*

A meticulously researched book that examines the role of social-democratic parties throughout Europe — including the British Labour Party — in defusing working-class struggle and preserving the capitalist system. 272 pages. £5.95

### HOW MARXISM WORKS

by *Chris Harman*

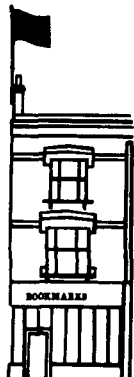
An introduction to Marxism, written in straightforward, everyday language — proving false the myth that Marxism is 'difficult' and showing it to be a set of ideas that explains the world we live in as no other set of ideas can. 96 pages. £1.95

All available from bookshops or by post from Bookmarks  
(add 15 per cent to cover postage)

## Bookmarks

265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 2DE.

★ Bookmarks is a socialist bookshop in North London, just round the corner from Finsbury Park tube station. We also run a large socialist mail order service. Just drop a line for our latest booklists.



## BLACKWELL

### Trotsky

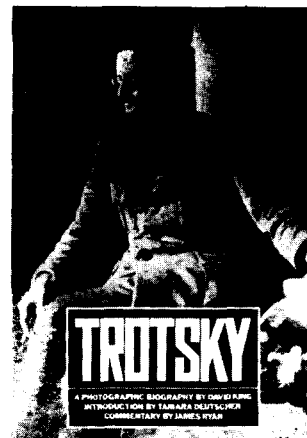
DAVID KING

Introduction by  
Tamara Deutscher  
Commentary by  
James Ryan

This book follows the dramatic events which took Trotsky from his birthplace in a small Ukrainian village to the head of the world's first workers' state and then, as Stalin slowly strangled the revolution, through opposition, persecution and exile to his assassination in Mexico city.

Over 400 rare photographs have been carefully structured with a parallel text by James Ryan. Here is the visual proof of the extraordinary life of the world's most brilliant 'permanent revolutionary'.

336 pages, £19.50 (0 631 14689 X)



### Basil Blackwell

108 Cowley Road, Oxford OX4 1JF  
Suite 1503, 432 Park Avenue South, New York NY 10016