

★ **Owen, David.** *Balkan Odyssey.* Feb. 1996. 352p. index. illus. Harcourt, \$25 (0-15-100221-5). DDC: 949.702. History

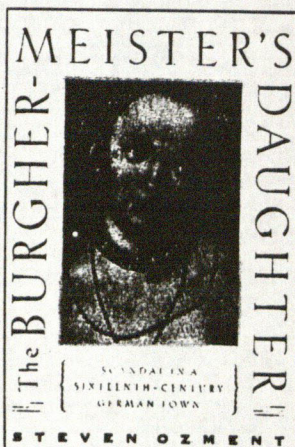
Owen, a British Labour and then Social Democratic Party Member of the British Parliament from 1966 to 1992, was cochairman (initially with former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance, then with Thorvald Stoltenberg) of the steering committee of the International Committee on the Former Yugoslavia from late 1992 until mid-1995. *Balkan Odyssey* is a detailed description of recent history: the development and then "ditching" of the 1993 peace plan proposed by Vance and Owen; subsequent peace proposals from the European Union and the "Contact Group"; humanitarian and peacekeeping efforts of UN agencies; strategic, diplomatic conflicts among nations outside the former Yugoslavia as well as the troubled new nations within that territory. Though Owen's narrative tells one side of the story—U.S. politicians come in for heavy criticism, for example—his "side" is important enough to urge acquisition. Includes useful maps, a chronology, and lists of participating individuals and acronymic agencies. —*Mary Carroll*

tive-than-thou credentials, some still maintain that what's wrong with these United States is not "too much government" but "too much unbridled corporate power." Drawing in part on their Open Magazine Pamphlet series, editors Ruggiero and Sahulka have gathered 20-plus essays on what's wrong and what can be done about it: David Dellinger and Noam Chomsky on the nature of the crisis; Chomsky, Tom Athanasiou, Kristin Dawkins, Jeremy Brecher, Howard Zinn, and Seymour Melman on globalization and its part in the current corporate order; several pieces on the Chiapas, Mexico's Zapatista struggle, including Winona LaDuke's "Learning from Native Peoples"; Herbert Schiller, Nancy Kranich, and Laura Powers on freedom in cyberspace and on the info highway; Manning Marable on Malcolm X and Cornel West and bell hooks in dialogue; Joel Rogers and Juliet Schor on political and economic strategies for the future. Although this book won't get a promotional blitz like Newt Gingrich's pseudohistory, it supplies information and analysis that the targets of Gingrich's contract will welcome. —*Mary Carroll*

Perechodnik, Calel. *Am I a Murderer? Testament of a Jewish Ghetto Policeman.* Tr. by Frank Fox. Feb. 1996. 288p. illus. Westview, \$23 (0-8133-2702-4). DDC: 940.53.

One of the most painful aspects of the Holocaust was the fact that many Jews became policemen; at the Nazis' insistence, Jewish policemen were responsible for maintaining order in the ghettos. At first they were welcomed, but later they were seen as traitors and collaborators by fellow Jews. Perechodnik was a 27-year-old ghetto policeman in Otwock, a town near Warsaw. In February 1941, he saw that the war was not coming to an end and wanted to avoid the labor camps, so he joined a force of 200 ghetto policemen. He hoped that the job would provide a shield for himself, his wife, and their 2-year-old daughter. But on August 19, 1942, Perechodnik's wife and daughter were among 8,000 Otwock Jews sent to their deaths in Treblinka. He fled the ghetto in 1943, and during 105 days in hiding, he wrote this memoir. Shortly before his own death in 1944, Perechodnik gave it to a friend, and it was eventually deposited in the Yad Vashem

★ **Ozment, Steven.** *The Burghermeister's Daughter: Scandal in a Sixteenth-Century German Town.* Mar. 1996. 240p. illus. St. Martin's, \$23.95 (0-312-13939-X). DDC: 943. History



From a Harvard historian's research into a trove of original documents emerges a captivating reconstruction of a true story that resonates with meaning for contemporary times. Sixteenth-century Anna Büschler, born into a prominent family in a not insignificant German city, battled her father, siblings, and the local government in a court of law over the deprivation of her rightful inheritance. Probing into "the internal workings of a distant society," Ozment casts balanced light on the tale of a woman who, from almost the start of her life, kicked over the traces imposed on her by her gender and social station and suffered the consequences. But rather than bowing to her expunction from her family, she chose to fight back—not with vengeance, but within the jurisprudential arena. Ozment sets the scene with color and knowledge, leaving the reader well-informed about the social order that Anna came to violate flagrantly. He doesn't want us to regard her in black or white, as neither an immoral renegade nor a victim. He seeks a bigger picture

than a simple rejudgment of her moral character: what her story reveals about her time and place. And the conclusion drawn from Anna's actions and reactions may surprise. "In both everyday life and in times of crisis," Ozment insists, "women in the sixteenth century had access to effective personal and legal resources." Who would have guessed that? A book that is scholarly impeccable yet at the same time perfectly accessible to general readers. —*Brad Hooper*

Archives in Israel. The book was published in Poland in 1993. Combining elements of a memoir, a chronicle, and a diary, it is one of the most exceptional eyewitness testimonies to come out of the Holocaust. —*George Cohen*

Shanks, Hershel. *Jerusalem: An Archaeological Biography.* 1995. 256p. index. illus. Random, \$45 (0-679-44526-9). DDC: 933. YA

Although no one knows the exact date of Jerusalem's founding, 1996 has been designated as its 3,000th anniversary. Shanks, the editor of *Biblical Archaeology Review*, offers a great anniversary present in the form of this impressive book. It begins with the remains of a house from the Bronze Age and takes readers on an archaeological tour that ends with the Ottoman period. And what a tour it is! Discover Jesus' tomb, Solomon's temple, and the palaces of Herod, just to name a few stops along the way. Shanks is able to pinpoint important finds and wrap them with history while, at the same time, introducing readers to the scientific techniques that make these finds possible. Matching the excellent text are numerous photographs and illustrations that capture both the mystery of this holiest of cities and its surprising everydayness. Jerusalem is a place where people have lived, dreamed, and died for a very long time, and this book offers fitting celebration of that fact. —*Ilene Cooper*

FICTION

General Fiction

Anaya, Rudolfo J. *Jalamanta: A Message from the Desert.* Feb. 1996. 208p. Warner, \$17.95 (0-446-52024-1).

Jalamanta, exiled in the desert for 30 years for questioning the dogma of the repressive Central Authority, has returned to his village and his beloved wife, Fatimah. In a series of community gatherings, Jalamanta continues to preach his revolutionary philosophy on the spiritual path of enlightenment, drawing ever greater crowds. Ultimately betrayed by a childhood friend, he is once again taken prisoner by the authorities. Anaya's religious fable is more cliché than story as his New Age desert wanderer repeatedly speaks of "stripping away the veils of the soul" and "becoming one with the Universal Light." The novel is at its best when depicting the special relationship shared by Fatimah and Jalamanta, but this story thread doesn't stand much of a chance when it's surrounded by so much artifice. Still, there seems to be a huge demand for material that deals with spirituality, no matter how it's served up, and this title may well appeal to the same vast audience that went for *The Celestine Prophecy* (1994) and *Mutant Message Down Under* (1994). —*Joanne Wilkinson*