

GRAUSTARK

#495

1 August 1984

MIDTERM ISSUE

As sometimes happens, I am publishing an issue of GRAUSTARK between regularly scheduled publication dates, to announce moves made by "Immediate Return Mail" and for other purposes. The next deadline in all GRAUSTARK postal Diplomacy games remains NOON, FRIDAY 10 AUGUST 1984.

1982IN

Following "Spring 1912" moves, France retreats A Ber-Sil, F Tri-Alb.

1983AJ

The Italian F Gas had an available retreat which it takes: F Gas-Spa(n.c.). Italy may build only one new unit in "Winter 1908".

1983CP

In "Winter 1906", France builds A Mar & F Bre, Germany builds A Mun, A Kie & F Ber, Italy removes F Tus & F Nap, and Turkey removes F Con.*

1983CW

Kevin Stone's moves for Italy came in .3 days after the deadline. They had been postmarked ~~two~~ days before the deadline. The Russian "Spring 1906" move "F Por-Spa(s.c.)" should have been underlined as failing; the French A Mar actually did enter Spain on that turn.

1983HF

Austria-Hungary builds F Tri, A Bud & A Vic, and Turkey removes F Arm in "Winter 1905". Mark Follmer was not heard from, so Larry Chafetz as England builds A Edi and takes over play of that country.

1983IE

Marc Hurwitz is still playing Germany in this game; Mark Follmer's name was erroneously put to those moves in the last issue. Marc Hurwitz's orders were subjected to the peculiar vagaries of the United States Postal "Service". He mailed them in triplicate, and the three letters were postmarked on the 16th, the 17th, and the 18th. All arrived on the 23rd, three days after the deadline. No stand-bys were called upon for Germany and Turkey because none were needed for the upcoming "Winter 1904" moves; the stand-bys' names will be announced in GRAUSTARK #496. The dislodged French A Mid was removed and so France will have a build in that season.

* - The two Turkish "Fall 1906" moves "A Smy holds; F Bla S A Sev" were inadvertently omitted from the last issue. Both succeeded.

WHO NEEDS THEM?

"Them", in this case, are Rod Walker and Bruce Linsey. Long-time Diplomacy fans may recall that, over ten years ago, Rod Walker mounted a characteristic campaign of defamation against John J. Beshara, one of the hardest-working and most valuable members of the postal Diplomacy hobby. Although Beshara, President of The Diplomacy Association, got support from all over the hobby, he decided that he didn't need this spate of invective from Walker, and he dropped out.

Well, Walker is trying it again. This time his target is Kathy Byrne, Custodian of the Boardman Numbers, and the hardest-working person who has ever served the hobby in that capacity. After a succession of unsatisfactory Custodians, it is a great relief to have her in that important post. But Walker has once again taken it upon himself to, with no official standing within the hobby, decide which games are or are not "variant" or "irregular". It is his and Linsey's clear intention to drive her out of the hobby by sheer harrassment. According to Robert Sacks, who takes up this matter in the 1 August issue of his publication Known Game Openings, Walker and Linsey are being abetted in this persecution by Mark Borch and Walt Buchanan. This is not surprising; Buchanan supported Walker in his campaign against Beshara to the extent of lying that Beshara was GRAUSTARK's financial backer. And we all know Borch and Linsey as admitted perpetrators of falsified publications, in which they put out the most outrageous and sometimes even racist statements over other people's names.

I strongly recommend that people follow Sacks's policy in dealing with Walker and Linsey. "The hobby," he writes in Known Game Openings, "should completely break relations with these two malefactors: no one should write, subscribe, or trade for their publications, accept subscriptions or letters for publication from them, or deal with their 'hobby services'." For the full text of Sacks' bill of particulars against this attempt to drive one of the most valuable Diplomacy hobbyists out, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Robert Sacks, Apt. 5-V, 4861 Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10034.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

This issue of GRAUSTARK, the publication in which postal Diplomacy was founded, is coming out between the regular publication dates of every third Saturday. This is partly to report several "Immediate Return" moves (see page 1), partly for the above announcement in support of Kathy Byrne's services to the hobby, partly to get caught up on the letter column and press releases, and partly to find space for the article on page 3 in support of Our President.

GRAUSTARK is published every third Saturday by John Boardman, 234 E. 19th St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11226. It currently carries 14 games of postal Diplomacy, but since several of them are nearly over, new games are being organized now. The game fee is \$18, and this entitles you to a subscription as long as the game lasts, whether or not you are eliminated. With your game fee, send in a list of the countries that you'd like to play, in your order of preference. If you do not already have a copy, you should also ask for GRAUSTARK #437, in which the rules of postal Diplomacy were last published.

The subscription rate for non-players is 9 issues for \$6. Back issues are available from #467 at 10 issues for \$1.50. (A few earlier issues such as #437 are also available.)

(continued on p. 7)

IT'S TRUE BECAUSE OUR PRESIDENT SAID SO

The American people, and indeed those of the whole world, stand in need of a concise and inexpensive collection of the words of Our President, Commander-in-Chief, Alpha Male, and Supreme War Leader. Two such collections, one including an analysis of His Presidency with projections for the future, have recently been published. Although they have flaws, they are still recommended to every GRAUSTARK reader for the Presidential Words, which are worthy of study and reflection by every human being.

Chief among these flaws are the snide comments that the books' authors surround the Presidential Words with - it is as if a priceless diamond were to be presented to the public in a coprolith setting. There He Goes Again: Ronald Reagan's Reign of Error (1983, Pantheon Books, N. Y.; \$4.95) is edited by Mark Green and Gail MacColl. It should be pointed out that Mark Green once failed to get elected as a liberal Democrat from a Manhattan congressional district, which should give you an idea of his competence. (The Republican who beat him, also named Green, is so liberal that there is some doubt as to whether the Party will support his re-election bid this year.) Green and MacColl present a number of political judgments from Our President. This, by itself, would be an important public service. But the editors surround the Presidential Words with strong hints that, in their belief, it is possible for a President of the Great Big United States of America to lie. His Words are alleged to be false in every cited case.

To say or even hint this is a gross misunderstanding of the state of Our Imperial Nation and the world in the real year 1984. Green and MacColl, with many of Our President's other critics like Hinckley and Chernenko, seem to believe that His Excellency the President, Commander-in-Chief, Alpha Male and Supreme War Leader of the Great Big United States of America is just another politician or retired actor, and thus no more worthy of credence than, say, Marlon Brando or John Connally. And the Great Big United States of America long ago ceased to be just another nation like those decadent European countries where everyone, no matter how poorly informed or maliciously motivated, claims the "right" to differ with the national leader.

For example, Green and MacColl quote Our President as saying, in 1978, that Vietnam had been two nations before the French came in, and that North Vietnam refused to hold elections in 1956. It is therefore close to treason to assert that Vietnam had been one nation through most of history, and that South Vietnam refused to hold elections over the objections of the government in the north. If President Reagan said that President Kennedy sent the Marines into Vietnam to resist attacks from the north, then the book's statement that Marines only went in 1965 is a lie. For saying the things about Vietnam that Green and MacColl are now saying, four students were shot dead at Kent State University in 1970. Green and MacColl would do well to remember this.

They also claim that Our President is lying when he says that the Soviet Union is militarily superior to the Great Big United States of America. The data cited by Green and MacColl, to prove that Our Empire has always had a military superiority over the Soviet Union, is also true, but there is a difference between these truths. That difference has always been a part of American military policy. When Our President was only a year old, it was laid out in The Day of the Saxon by that brilliant military strategist, General Homer Lea, describing the necessary militancy with which America must hold its imperial role in the world, and how that militancy is to be maintained. General Lea's words were:

"Before a state can be drilled to arms, its spirit must be militant; if not, it must undergo such a transfiguration. Militancy is different from other virtues in that it cannot be preserved by the individual. It is collective and not personal, hence the first duty devolving upon a state is to take means of preserving from deterioration this excellence upon which depends its existence."

It was in pursuit of this policy that Our President and His supporters - which ought to but unfortunately does not include every human being - argue about the military menace presented by the Soviet Union. In practice, of course, we know that the American Empire could stomp the Soviet Union into a radioactive ruin and not feel the leavings sticking to our boots. But the readiness to do this must always be kept alive in the American people, and such speeches as Our President's about the Soviet menace are the way to do it.

This theme of disloyalty continues through the book. On 10 December 1982 Our President said that the nuclear freeze was first proposed the previous year by Leonid Brezhnev. Green and MacColl claim that instead, a Republican Senator proposed it in 1979. Who is lying? Over the past 15 or 20 years we have seen that people who call Our Presidents liars run a strong risk of getting shot. It therefore follows, by the strongest possible logical refutation, that Our President is telling the truth. More to the point, it is the truth because Our President says so. To say otherwise is to debase ourselves to false levels of mere "objectivity", as disloyalists like to call it, which make Our President the more equal of any other man and the American Empire the more equal of any other nation.

The issue is clear to every American. Either you believe Our President, or you believe a bunch of faceless economists, military analysts, historians, politicians, and other people - some of them already opponents of Our Presidents, and some of them not even citizens of our superior nation. The choice is yours: Reagan and loyalty, or "objective truth" as Green and MacColl see it, and the risk of public scorn, beatings, prison, exile, or even death - the fate of other people who have dared to claim that a President of the Great Big United States of America can be, as they say it, "wrong".

Some excellent Presidential quotations that Green and MacColl miss in their book are included in Reagan for Beginners by David Smith and Melinda Gebbie (1984, Writers & Readers, London (1), \$4.95). If we had available only the Green-MacColl book, we would not know that President Reagan said "The current drive for women's liberation...all boils down to simple jealousy" or "We have to be able to accept that unemployment is going to rise before we can get over the disease of inflation" or "Unemployment insurance is a pre-paid vacation for freeloaders" or "We need to get back the Depression mentality, where...anyone who got a job felt lucky" or his belief - which will be covered more fully in a future issue - that nuclear war is inevitable, that Armageddon as predicted in the New Testament is nearby, and that the two events may be the same. Finally, we have a concise summary by Lady Reagan, obviously speaking her husband's views, that "The very people who criticize censorship are inviting it by not censoring themselves."

Reagan for Beginners offers what There He Goes Again does not except by accident - an analysis of the Reagan Presidency in American and world history. It is their view that a sort of "liberal consensus" governed American political life from the Great Depression to the 1970s. Then, to show the breakdown of this "consensus" in American political life, Smith

1982IM - PRESS RELEASE

JOHN to RANDY: I was not idle during my trip to Colorado. While my parents were away one afternoon, my brother and I chartered a plane to Overland Park. While no one was home, we carefully gained entry via a first story window (and your parents thought that you had left it open). My brother (the munitions expert) and I then went to work. Starting in the basement and working our way up, we carefully put into place a large number of assorted explosives ranging from Plastique and dynamite to incendiary devices. When we got to your room (the one with drug and sex paraphernalia hidden in the closet not to mention the rather large cache of Playboys and Penthouses under your twin sized bed (if sheets could only talk!)) we planted a charge in the light socket. We also mined your property while we were at it. All of this work took approximately two hours. Leaving as silently as we entered (leaving no fingerprints) we quickly chartered another plane back to Colorado. To make a long story short, every three weeks I shall be waiting for Graustark. If at any time the magical phrase "NMR" appears next to your name, I shall call your house. If you and/or your family is home at the time, I shall press a small red button next to my bed and everything on the property located at 8310 Grandview Drive, Overland Park, Kansas 66212 shall cease to exist! So, don't NMR again!

This is
O At
P Great
E Intervals
R This
A Appears
T To
I Inflamm
O Optic
N Nerves
1266

1983IE - PRESS RELEASES

BERLIN to PARIS & ROME: OK, OF - so I waffled. Buttör me up and soothe me with syrupy words & I'll be easy to gobble up.

BERLIN to ENG, FRANCE, & RUSSIA: Christmas is getting closer all the time - notice all the red & green? Personally, I think it's disgusting.

PARIS to LONDON: Even an intelligent Englishman can't salvage this one; your non-intelligent predecessor saw to that.

PARIS to BERLIN: That's the way, Hurwitz. NMR out like a good little boy.

PARIS to MOSCOW: I would have thought you had more brains than to leave a supply center in a Fall turn. But perhaps I shouldn't think so much.

1984B - PRESS RELEASE

BERLIN: In an attempt to restore sagging enlistments, Kaiser Wilhelm II has changed his name to 'Michael Jackson'. This ploy seems to have met with some success; already, millions of gullible German youth have paid thirty dollars apiece to join the German Army. The Kaiser's Victory Tour is expected to start in Stockholm this Spring.

1984AY - PRESS RELEASE

PARIS to BERLIN (Winter Press): Let's talk.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

My IBM electric typewriter is currently in the shop for repairs, so several pages of this issue are being typed on a Royal manual portable that I've had for 33 years. Does anyone expect this year's word processors to be still functioning in 2017?

THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH

((Comments by the editor are enclosed in double parentheses.))

JOHN C. QUARTO, Apt. #5, 23 St. Luke's Road, Allston, Mass. 02134: No one I've asked can figure out what that "O-P-E-R-A-T-I-O-N" thing in each issue stands for. How about some enlightenment next Graustark?

((Ever since I started publishing in science-fiction fandom I have been numbering my publications under the colophon which, in this issue, appears on page 5. This is a cumulative listing for all my publications in the fields of war-gaming, science-fiction fandom, computer hacking, filksinging, etc. Several other s-f fans also do this, and it was there that I picked up the idea. There are some fans whose publication numbers run over 2000.))

CHUCK KAPLAN, 742 Grouse Court, Deerfield, Ill. 60015: The Olympics are coming up; my colleagues are looking forward to American victories, not individual ones. In the last year nationalistic sentiment has increased noticeably. Even rock and roll music is jingoistic, with "The Heart of Rock and Roll" and other songs. As my generation of baby boomers mature, we are getting comfortable with the status quo. With a need to believe in something and no strong movement around, my friends are starting to actively support the system. Sorry, but this conservative trend has reached snowballing proportions. You're going to have to wait until the '90's for another impassioned movement.

((This confirms my impression that the "Yumpies" or "Baby Boomers" who supported Senator Hart represented only that minority of Yumpies who are Democrats. But I do not feel "sorry" that the present conservative mood exists. It would scarcely be safe to oppose it, after what President Reagan said in his speech in Austin, Texas, on 25 July 1984. He attacked the Democrats for "going so far left they've left America." Obviously the Democratic Party, which has actually had the effrontery to nominate a candidate against Our President, is going to be read out of the American political scene.

((As for the Olympics, American Nationalism is nothing new. Ever since they started waving the flags and playing the national anthems as medals were awarded, individual effort has faded before the power and political necessities of the State.))

R. J. BUDAY, 20751 Arbor Ave., Euclid, Ohio 44123: Though I have been playing regular wargames for many years, I did not acquire Diplomacy until last December. I am currently in two PBM games with Brad Wilson as gamesmaster.

Mr. Wilson's game fee and newsletter are free. It is apparent that this attracts shabby players with little concern for the game. We have already had several NMR's. I'm sure that this would be eliminated by a high game fee.

ALLAN PETER BULOW, 28 Frederick St., South Granville, New South Wales, Australia 2142: Although I have only played a few games of Diplomacy I have become a hopeless addict but I find it rather difficult to locate people with the right attitude and disposition to play with and so I am looking for other areas, as well as playing, in which I can appreciate this fantastic game.

Living here in Australia, as you might imagine, is so far away from countries such as the U. K. and U. S. that there is absolutely no literature here at all about the game or if there is I have not been able to find it. I have a copy of the Gamers Guide but I had to write to the Avalon Hill Co. in the U. S. and have them send me a copy which is where I found your name. It is also mentioned in the Guide that there are hundreds of publications available over there and this is what I am writing about.

Are there any books on strategy and tactics available or perhaps publications on complete games such as the sample game in the Gamers' Guide from Graustark known as 1966AA. Perhaps an old edition of Graustark has a list of available books and where they might be obtained and what they cost. I would appreciate it you could tell me who to make a bank cheque out to with American Postage rates included. I would also like to subscribe to Graustark if you could send me an application form with overseas rates. Perhaps, after all your kindness, you might pass this letter on to an American Diplomacy player who would like to correspond with a keen Aussie fan from down under.

((I have already replied to Allan Bulow's letter, and would like to ask other North American postal Diplomacy fans to do the same. Since GRAUSTARK's turn-around time is only 3 weeks, it might be difficult for someone from Australia to play in it. Perhaps a gamesmaster whose 'zine has a turn-around time of one month or more should get in touch with him. I have also suggested to him how he might start his own postal Diplomacy publication for players in Australia, New Zealand, and neighboring regions.

((While postal Diplomacy is quite a lively hobby in Europe, there seems to have been relatively little activity in the Far East. Welcome to our hobby, Allan!))

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY (continued from p. 2)

Diplomacy, a simulation game of World War I, was designed by Allan B. Calhamer and is published by Avalon-Hill of Baltimore.

Also published here, at the same rate and frequency as GRAUSTARK, is EMPIRE, which carries postal games other than Diplomacy. Games of Avalon-Hill's Civilization and SPI's Empires of the Middle Ages are currently in progress in EMPIRE. So are games of SPI's PRESTAGS games (Chariot, Spartan, Legion, Viking, and Yeoman), and Frigate and Dreadnought. You can even design your own scenarios using PRESTAGS pieces. Nova's Lost World combat series is also currently being played in EMPIRE.

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GRAUSTARK #497 will be published on 22 September 1984, and will also contain an up-to-date version of the mailing list. If your address will change between now and then, please let me know at once, so the up-to-date version can be published then. If, like mine, your telephone area code is going to be changed soon, I need that information also.

WHEN DO YOU EXPIRE?

This revises somewhat the list that appeared in the last issues. The subscriptions of the following people expire with the indicated issues of GRAUSTARK:

496 - John P. McClimans	502 - John Weswig
498 - Kevin Stone	503 - Arthur Ticossi
Gerry Thompson	513 - Donald Del Grande
500 - William Whisnert	519 - Eric Vorheiden
501 - Ralph L. Morton	

If, as seems apparent, 1983CW will end soon, then the GRAUSTARK subscriptions of the following people will end with it: Steven Kellmeyer, Daniel S. Palter, Steven Speidel, Daniel Wallick, and Richard Wilcon. The subscriptions of James K. Goode, Charles Gratto, Ernest Hakoy and Mark Kaplow will end when 1982HI ends.

IT'S TRUE BECAUSE OUR PRESIDENT SAID SO (continued from p. 4)

and Gebbie introduce the concept that we are now living in a "post-liberal" era. To illustrate this, they introduce on page 81 an article beginning "Test your knowledge - see if you can identify the president profiled below..." They then follow, for the next seven pages, with a brief account of the personality, campaigns, and policies of "President X". I excerpted this article in GRAUSTARK #494 with the heading "Who Is President X?" "President X" is described in terms that the authors mean should suggest President Reagan. But, as Daniel S. Palter was the first of GRAUSTARK's readers to realize, it is actually a description of President Carter!

Indeed, if differences of personal style and rhetoric are removed, much of President Carter's administration prefigured that of President Reagan. It should be noted that as a private citizen, Ronald Reagan supported most of President Carter's important foreign policy initiatives, including the boycott of the so-called "Moscow Olympics"; the grain embargo on exports to the Soviet Union, the economic sanctions imposed on Poland when its government imprisoned pro-American Poles, and the condemnation of the Soviet attack on Afghanistan.

However, "post-liberal" is a rather weak characterization of the present situation in the Great Big United States of America. It would be more accurate to call it "post-political". For all practical purposes, politics is over in this country. We have reached, under the leadership of Our President, a policy which cannot be changed. The political system is no longer able to produce people who are capable of changing it, since such people are frozen out or ejected as soon as they make it appear that they would like to change the fundamentals upon which the American policy of world domination is based.

Until the present year, it has not greatly mattered whether Republicans or Democrats, conservatives or liberals, have directed that same unvarying policy. Liberal Democrats fashioned the worldwide system of military alliances which have put some 50 or 60 nations in subservience to America's imperial mission of world domination. The wars with Korea and Vietnam were entirely the creations of the liberal Democratic Presidents and Congressional leaderships who began them. But we have now, as Smith and Gebbie point out, come to the point where "liberalism" must be jettisoned out of political necessity. Our national unity requires that some group be identified as an internal enemy so that the rest of us can unite and root them out from among us, thus demonstrating to Our President our unswerving loyalty to Him, and to the lesser nations the fact that no division or dissent whatsoever exists in our society. Ideally, Communists and other Pacifists ought to be the target of such a drive, but they are so few in number that they would not serve such a purpose. Therefore, it is the liberals' turn to be excised from American society.

President Reagan's closest advisers and confidants have begun this process. Secretary of the Interior James Watt has divided this country into two mutually exclusive groups, whom he identifies as "Americans" and "liberals". Jerry Falwell, who to mix metaphors freely is the "Protestant Pope of America", has said that a liberal cannot be a good Christian. A week ago, in Texas, Our President said that the Democrats, under their unashamedly liberal leadership, are "going so far left that they've left America". Non-liberal Democrats are being given what could be a last chance to support Our President, and to desert a party which Our President is clearly reading out of American political life.

For several decades perceptive Democrats have abandoned this sinking ship. As far back as 1936, when liberal Democrats seemed to dominate

every aspect of American political life, the Republican campaign to identify liberalism with disloyalty caused some of them to go over to the Republicans. In 1936, former Democratic Presidential candidate Al Smith and future Republican Presidential candidate Wendell Willkie abandoned the Democratic Party to support the Republican nominee. In 1948 many southern Democrats broke away from the national ticket and ran one of their own. Their Presidential candidate, Senator Strom Thurmond, has since become a Republican, as did many of his followers. President Reagan himself was once a Democrat. When he ran for the Presidency in 1980, he was endorsed by such former Democrats as John Connally, Ralph Abernathy, and Eugene McCarthy, who obviously know what is going to happen to liberal Democrats who don't repudiate their old beliefs fast enough. Frank Sinatra, who was once a fixture at Democratic presidential rallies, has endorsed Our President. Mayor Edward I. Koch of New York City accepted the Republican nomination when he last ran for office and, though a Democrat technically, seems friendly towards Our President's policies. No one would be greatly surprised if he were to endorse Our President, or at least refuse to endorse the opposition.

This Presidential "campaign" should not be mistaken. It is not one of those open choices between opposing alternatives which were popular before the Great Big United States of America had achieved its present position of imperial domination over the entire world. It is a national endorsement of Our President. A vote for Walter Mondale is a hint to foreign enemies that our ranks are filled with dissent, and if they wait long enough a regime will come to power here from which they can get concessions. Our President's observation that such people have "left America" should be a warning to them. Indeed, the very fact that the Democratic Party is running a candidate against Our President is proof that they do not have the best interests of Our Empire at heart.

Of course I endorse the re-election of President Reagan. It would be foolish, and possibly dangerous, not to. It is a course of action which I most urgently recommend to every reader of GRAUSTARK.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

World War I, on which the game of Diplomacy is based, is usually believed to have begun as a consequence of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, by the Bosnian tyrannicide Gavrilo Princip. Although it is erroneous to say that without Princip's act there would have been no World War I, the steps by which the powers of Europe moved from the assassination to a full-scale war have challenged the analyses of historians for seven decades.

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of that war, the New York Times Book Review of 29 July 1984 published a review by Barbara Tuchman of Gordon Brook-Shepherd's Archduke of Sarajevo (Little, Brown & Co., Boston, \$20). Barbara Tuchman, who is not a professional historian, was presumably considered qualified to write this review because she had written the popular The Proud Tower and The Guns of August about that period. Regular readers of GRAUSTARK who are familiar with her works may recognize that the series "The Reign of Senlilo the Great" is a satire on her "A Distant Mirror", an account of the latter part of the 14th century.

Tuchman tends to confirm the judgment on the Archduke's character that are made in Vladimir Dedijer's excellent The Road to Sarajevo (1966). Rather than a sinister plot from the upper levels of the Serbian government, or that of some major power, she characterizes the assassination plot as "a malign series of accidents", largely agreeing with Dedijer. She, and presumably Brook-Shepherd, do not see the Archduke as the man who could have, as Emperor, pulled the empire out of its malaise, pre-

served the empire, or even transformed it into a democratic federation of its many nationalities.

In the same issue is an essay by Charles S. Maier of Harvard, entitled "August 1914: The Whys of War". Unlike Tuchman and Brook-Shepherd, Maier has bought Adolf Hitler's argument, in Mein Kampf, that the Archduke was a friend of the Slavs; his exact words are: "...ironically, a major force for moderation would have been the silenced Archduke himself." Dedijer's book cites the evidence that solidly refutes this notion.

While Tuchman's review merely covers the Archduke, Maier's article shows how the historiography of the assassination and the outbreak of war has changed over the decades, in response to the changing demands of the real world in which the historians exist. ("And what do we learn from 1914 about control in a crisis?")

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The address of Ernest S. Hakey III was incorrectly printed in a recent issue of GRAUSTARK. It is actually 63 Medford St., Medford, Mass. 02155; 617-345-7470

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A few recent stories indicate how, under the Leadership of President Reagan and the Republican Party, America is indeed entering a "post-political" age. You may recall how the Democratic Party shleppe d all over the country, holding public hearings on what to put in their party platform. The Republican Party is instead holding private platform drafting sessions with White House aides. (New York Times, 31 July 1984) Nothing could make clearer the death of the old catch-as-catch-can politics of the years before America became an imperial power. Meanwhile, Our President's Chief of Staff, James A. Baker, when asked if a trip to China was his first visit to a Communist country, said, "No, I've been to Massachusetts." (Times, 27 April) When that state's governor squalled for an apology, Massachusetts' Republican chairman, Andrew Natsios, was unrepentant. "The People's Republic of China," he said, "is more conservative than some parts of Cambridge."

The message is clear, and prudent people will do well to heed it. In the eyes of Our President's Party, opposition is synonymous with Communism, and the public is to be excluded from the political process. Since this is Our President's position, I naturally give it my full, complete, uncritical, and unwavering support.

GRAUSTARK #495

John Boardman
234 East 19th Street
Brooklyn, New York 11226
Great Big United
States of America

F I R S T C L A S S M A I L

Are you in:

1982IN 1983CW
1983AJ 1983HF
1983CP 1983IE

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Then see page 1.