

on. He includes long references to "legitimate" environmental dangers. "The accident at Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania and discovery of toxic chemicals dumped at Love Canal, further awakened the public sense that environmental pollution could lead to terminal disease."

He praises Rachel Carson. "Fueling the environmentalist movement was the growing feeling that industrial growth was dangerous in itself. This belief drew heavily on the eloquent arguments of Rachel Carson [whose arguments are fatally flawed-JGW] whose *Silent Spring* [1962] was the key document of the new environmentalism." "Not until the culturally tumultuous late 1960s and the economically unsettled 1970s—decades of growing doubts about American institutions—were environmentalists able to get much of a hearing."

He then contradicts himself. "Americans had always idealized the countryside and been ambivalent about industrialization and the city." And in general, he treats the environmentalist movement as a legitimate contender in the arena of cancer policy, arising "spontaneously" on the American political scene.

An incredible assertion

Toward the end of the book, Patterson makes a most incredible assertion: "Only one development in the 1980s seemed to have the power to eclipse fears of cancer in America. That was the eruption of . . . AIDS." By 1986, he continued "the head of the World Health Organization [stated] 'We stand nakedly in front of a very serious pandemic as mortal as any pandemic there has ever been.' Federal officials calculated in 1986 that at least 1,500,000 Americans were already infected by AIDS, and predicted that five to ten million Americans would be infected by the end of 1991." Patterson continues, "If AIDS were to become epidemic in the United States, it was certain that cancer would lose some of its hold on the fears and imaginations of the American people. *By 1987, however, no such epidemic had occurred.*" (Emphasis added)"

On the contrary, the extent of the spread of AIDS is being concealed from the American people, by agreement of government and the medical establishment, which—like Mr. Patterson—appears not to care much for the value of human life, when that conflicts with budgetary constraints or ideological commitments. Patterson admits he is no scientist. But he endorses the environmentalist mythos that places "crimes against nature" above crimes against humanity, and cruelly uses fears of cancer to oppose scientific and technological progress ("industry causes cancer").

This book can serve as a case study, on how the omission of the idea of the sacredness of human life and the uncompromising nature of the fight for life—the cultural superiority of Western civilization—can shape what a person, or a generation, thinks is possible for mankind to accomplish. The deadliest, most insidious cancer is the cultural pessimism Patterson purveys.

Books Received

Armed and Dangerous: The Rise of the Survivalist Right, by James Coates. Hill and Wang, N. Y., 1987. \$17.95 hardbound, 294 pages.

Pepper: Eyewitness to a Century, by Claude Denson Pepper with Hays Gory. Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, N. Y., 1987. \$17.95 hardbound, 336 pages.

The Body Victorious, by Lennart Nilsson in collaboration with Jan Lindberg. Delacorte Press, N. Y., 1987. \$25 hardbound, 196 pages.

Hitler: Memoirs of a Confidant, by Otto Wagner, edited by Henry Ashby Turner, Jr., translated by Ruth Hein. Yale University Press, New Haven, Conn., and London, 1987. \$13.95, 333 pages.

Mikhail Bakunin: A Study in the Psychology and Politics of Utopianism, by Aileen Kelly. Yale University Press, New Haven, Conn., and London, 1987. \$14.95 paperbound, 320 pages.

AIDS and the Law: A Guide for the Public, edited by Harlon L. Dalton, Scott Burris, and the Yale AIDS Law Project. Yale University Press, New Haven, Conn., 1987. \$22.50 hardbound, \$7.95 paperbound, 382 pages.

AH-1 (Modern Fighting Aircraft, Vol. 13), by Doug Richardson, A Prentice Hall Press Arco Military Book, N. Y., 1987. \$12.95 hardbound, 64 pages.

An Illustrated Guide to Tank Busters, by Mike Spick and Bruce Quarry. A Prentice Hall Press Arco Military Book, N. Y., 1987. \$10.95 hardbound, 155 pages.

An Illustrated Guide to Modern Fighters and Attack Aircraft, by Bill Gunston. A Prentice Hall Press Arco Military Book, N. Y., 1987. \$10.95 hardbound, 151 pages.

William C. Norris, Portrait of a Maverick, Founder of Control Data Corporation, by James C. Worthy. Ballinger Publishing Co., Cambridge, Mass., 1987. \$19.95 hardbound, 259 pages.

The Messianic Legacy, by Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh, and Henry Lincoln. Henry Holt and Co., Inc., N. Y., 1987. \$19.95 hardbound, 364 pages.

Rayburn: A Biography, by D.B. Hardeman and Donald C. Bacon. Texas Monthly Press, Austin, Texas, 1987. \$21.95 hardbound, 554 pages.