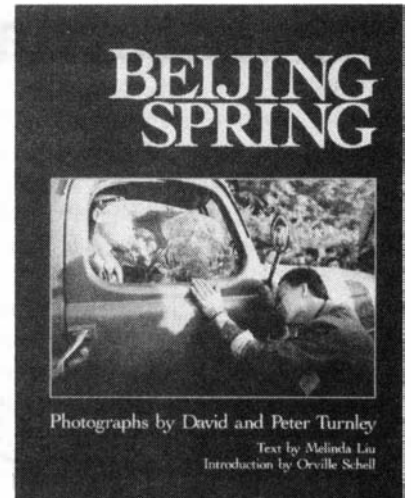




Student demonstrators before the military crackdown in Tiananmen Square (left). The cover of *Beijing Spring*, a photographic account of the democracy movement last year in China.



petition for redress of grievances, turned more and more into a direct challenge to institutionalized authority, as the "powers that be" showed themselves unable or unwilling to satisfy the craving for justice.

Beijing Spring documents that process, compressed into a time frame of two months, very well—best of all, because it shows in so many faces acknowledgement of the fundamental revolutionary sensation that one is stepping off the edge of a cliff and is suspended in midair, and the courage one finds in oneself when to turn back is more painful than any physical pain one could suffer.

Of course, a passion for justice and the courage to do something about it do not guarantee appropriate results; one must have a pretty good idea of how to get there. Contempt and defiance of illegitimate authority is no cure-all: certainly

if the '60s in the U.S.A. show anything, after two successive "me generations" spawned by the "'60s counterculture," they show that. President Bush's poll ratings notwithstanding, today the United States is a society so out of love with its leadership and itself that half its eligible citizens routinely don't bother to vote, and nearly 40% of its residents so far, by best estimates, have not even bothered to show up to be counted in the 1990 census; and once again, as in Franklin Roosevelt's time, we can speak of a third of a nation ill-clothed, ill-housed, ill-fed.

This book speaks to our situation. It speaks above all of hope and courage. They are not enough, but without them, nothing can be done. That courage is what the Chinese students had last year, what we Americans have lost, and what we need to find again if we are to have a future.

Books Received

The Drunken Society: Alcohol Abuse in the Soviet Union, by Boris Segal, Hippocrene Books, New York, 1990. 618 pages, hardbound, \$40.

New World, New Mind: Moving Toward Conscious Evolution, by Paul Ehrlich and Robert Ornstein, Simon & Schuster, New York, 1990. 302 pages, paperbound, \$9.95.

The Style of a Law Firm, Eight Gentlemen from Virginia, by Anne Hobson Freeman, Algonquin, New York, 1990, 290 pages, hardbound, \$24.95.

Thomas Jefferson: Statesman of Science, by Silvio A. Bedini, Macmillan, New York, 1990. 616 pages, hardbound, \$29.95.

Lost Victory: A Firsthand Account of America's Sixteen-Year Involvement in Vietnam, by William Colby with James McCargar, Contemporary Books, Chicago, 1989, 438 pages, hardbound, \$22.95.

Selling Out, How we are letting Japan buy our land, our industries, our financial institutions, and our future, by Douglas Frantz and Catherine Collings, Contemporary Books, Chicago, 1990, 382 pages, paperbound, \$9.95.

The Long Haul, An Autobiography, by Myles Horton, with Judith Kohl and Herbert Kohl, Doubleday, New York, 1990, 231 pages, hardbound, \$21.95.

The Jackson Phenomenon: The Man, the Power, the Message, by Elizabeth Colton, Doubleday, New York, 1990, 290 pages, hardbound, \$26.95.