

gains when the output of both the fortunate and the unfortunate is discouraged by disincentives."

It is possible that many civil rights leaders, academicians and politicians have a vested interest in perpetuating the current myths about the causes of group differences, but the rest of us are under no obligation to view the world through the blinders of such special interest groups. Many are likely to oppose the conclusions of this important book. They will not, however, be able to ignore it. ☉

**IDOLS FOR DESTRUCTION:
CHRISTIAN FAITH AND ITS
CONFRONTATION WITH
AMERICAN SOCIETY**

by Herbert Schlossberg

(Thomas Nelson Publishers, P.O. Box
141000, Nelson Place at Elm Hill Pike,
Nashville, TN 37214), 1983

335 pages ■ \$14.95 cloth; \$8.95
paperback

Reviewed by Edmund A. Opitz

THE modern world, as Mr. Schlossberg perceives it, is steeped in polytheism. Strange gods comprise its pantheon, bearing odd names such as Historicism, Mammon, Humanism, Nature, Power, and Religion. A chapter is devoted to the left-liberal ideologies which constitute, or have infiltrated, these several fields, and well-known apologists advance their best arguments. But after our au-

thor has applied his critical analysis his opponents are left without a case. He is an acute critic who seems to have read everything the idol makers have written, and much else besides. With its full index, the book is an encyclopedic survey of contemporary ideologies. It is also an answer, point by point, to much entrenched error. As an iconoclast, Schlossberg is a smashing success as he coolly demolishes one idol after another.

But the net impact of the book is not negative, for the author has a positive philosophy of freedom to replace the dubious notions he criticizes. Schlossberg is equipped with a body of principles explicitly Christian, buttressed by ideas from the writings of men like Mises, Hayek and Friedman. It is my opinion that many readers of *The Freeman* will be stimulated and challenged by this work, and I urge it upon them. ☉

DOUBLE CROSSING

by Erika Holzer

(G. P. Putnam's Sons, 200 Madison Ave.,
New York, NY 10016), 1983

291 pages ■ \$13.95 cloth

Reviewed by Bettina Bien Greaves

This is a novel about two brothers, Aleksei and Kiril Andreyev. Born in the Soviet Union and raised in Moscow, their lives took two very differ-

ent turns. Through flashbacks we learn that their father had been a drunkard and a member of the dreaded Soviet police. Their mother, however, had been unable to share her husband's views and, when a third son was seriously injured in infancy, had fled with him to the West in a desperate search for medical attention.

Aleksei, just under ten when his mother disappeared, had already learned that his father's name inspired fear in the hearts of listeners. He soon became a young bully and in time, following in his father's footsteps, a powerful official in the Soviet intelligence agency.

Kiril, only three when his mother left, was raised by an aunt who sympathized when he rebelled against the Communist youth organization, encouraged his natural desire for freedom and taught him how to oppose the regime in silence. Thus, Kiril quietly nursed his resentment against the Communist regime and spent every effort toward preparing himself for eventual escape from the Soviet Union. He studied languages and chose a medical career in the hope that it might some day take him abroad.

Kiril's first carefully worked out scheme to escape failed when his co-conspirator was killed in a desperate dash for freedom across the bridge between East and West Berlin. But Kiril persisted. Aleksei, suspicious

of his brother's intentions, had long been having him closely followed by secret informants.

The tale climaxes when fate finally brings Kiril, his brother Aleksei, as well as all the other major characters in the book, to a medical meeting in East Berlin. There, fortuitously, Kiril meets a famous American doctor who looks astonishingly like him. Kiril tries to persuade the doctor to let him "borrow" his U.S. passport just long enough to permit him to cross the border into West Berlin. Unfortunately, this scheme goes awry for completely unexpected reasons. Kiril then improvises on the spot—to tell how, would give the plot away. Suffice it to say that the story is exciting and the ending satisfying.

This book tells a great deal about the sad plight of persons behind the Iron Curtain who are yearning to be free. It reveals to some extent their desperation and the faint hopes to which they cling on the slight chance of someday escaping the clutches of the Communist regime.

To promote the freedom philosophy, it is important to make use of any and every medium of communication. Too few novels nowadays are sympathetic to capitalism. Thus, it is refreshing to have a well-written thriller that is frankly pro-freedom and anti-communist. Our thanks to Erika Holzer for *Double Crossing*. ☺