

# BOOKS

## Ethnic Cleansing

**THE POL POT REGIME: Race, Power and Genocide in Cambodia under the Khmer Rouge, 1975-1979**

By Ben Kiernan

Many people believe that the horrors of the brief but bloody Khmer Rouge regime resulted from a peasant revolt run amok. Kiernan argues that the more than 1.5 million deaths resulted from a cold, calculated and largely racially motivated campaign of genocide directed mainly at minorities, such as Vietnamese, Muslim Chams and those ethnic Khmers believed tainted by foreign influences. Kiernan heads the Cambodian Genocide Program at Yale University, established in 1994 with grants from the American and Australian governments to collect evidence should Pol Pot and his cohorts ever be brought to trial for crimes against humanity. Kiernan's appointment caused a minor academic tempest last year when some claimed, based on his youthful opposition to the American bombing, that he was naive in his assessment of the Cambodian civil war and its aftermath. Nobody reading this detailed and chilling history would accuse the author of being an apologist for that regime. ■

Yale University Press, New Haven, Conn.  
06520, U.S.A. 477 Pages. \$35 (cloth)

religious center dominated by the Shwedagon Pagoda to a bus station. The generals who run the country are more concerned about protecting Yangon's heritage than they are about how they busily sell it off to proper

Kiscadale Publications, Gartmore, Stirling, Scotland  
214 Pages. Price N/A (cloth)

## Not So Noble History

**TARTAN DRAGON**

By John McLean

As 1997 approaches, it is inevitable that more and more blood will be spilled on "historic ground" about Hong Kong. *Dragon* is exceptional in its tendency to open every turn of the page with an opening page of a saga of three Scots is utterly different from anything but stereotypical racial clichés: "Chinaman" and "beast." A straightforward history would be more entertaining; it appears to be more like Clavell's *Noble Savages* for those who read this one will see it written and ins



Winter Productions, Cresskill, New Jersey, Channel Islands Press  
HK\$95 (paper)

Nice and