



Increasingly, many of our most interesting books of general interest are coming from a group of authors once thought of as "academic." The meaning of academic, in the sense of being confined in interest to the academy, simply does not hold in publishing any longer.

For example, two new books, written by authors with academic credentials, are headed for audiences beyond the classroom. THE ABSTRACT SOCIETY by Anton C. Zijderfeld, who studied at Leiden, the Hartford Seminary Foundation, and now teaches sociology at Sir George Williams University in Montreal, blames many of our current frustrations and revolts on the fact that the centers of power that control our lives are becoming more and more remote from daily experience. ALIENATION by Richard Schacht, who teaches at the University of Illinois, is, in the words of its first review, "a twin-pronged inquiry into one of the most important and flagrantly banded-about concepts of the century" and a major by-product of "the abstract society."

What is this problem of finding oneself bucking establishments (or sensing that you are part of one), clashing with authoritarian systems, city hall, the capitol, faceless organizations and technologies?

Zijderfeld shows our divided selves, our roles in conflict, and also our endless ability to adapt and rebel. He explains retreat, revolt, and activism—and suggests how Ralph Nader-like protest can be carried forward in the 70s.

Schacht studies the various interpretations of various thinkers to answer the all-important question, "What is alienation?"

My private opinion, after reading these two good books, is that we can yet cope with our abstract society and that a little alienation is not altogether a bad thing.

L.L. Day
EDITOR-AT-LARGE

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by John Lear

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The Rise of the Elders, by Harvey Wheeler

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**CLEAN POWER
FROM INSIDE
THE EARTH**
by John Lear

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