

book is gracelessly written and maddeningly condescending but sheds light on a fascinating dimension of American intellectual life. (*Stephen Lehmann*)

Wiener, Jon. *Professors, Politics and Pop.* London and New York: Verso, 1991. 366p. (ISBN 0-86091-356-2). LC 91-025645.

Jon Wiener, professor of history at the University of California, Irvine, covers the higher education beat for *The Nation*, where he is a contributing editor. *Professors, Politics and Pop* is a collection of short pieces from that weekly (October 1984 through September 1990), plus a sprinkling of items from other magazines of the center-left. A quartet of heftier considerations of recent radical history and historiography first appeared as review articles in scholarly journals. Wiener has a nose for con-

troversy and likes to seek out subjects—either persons or “cases”—that define the battle lines between the academic and cultural left and the center-right. Broadly speaking, he contends—and anecdotally demonstrates—that the entrenched establishment in academe is conservative (and not liberal or radical as one would conclude from the media of late) even though the left, at least historically, enjoys superior intellectual credentials. Wiener manages to engage in this polemical discussion without using the much abused Newspeak phrase “politically correct.” But that is definitely what he is talking about: the attempt of “the neocons . . . to persuade the center that it’s the left rather than the right that threatens the integrity of the university by injecting external political issues into academia.” (*Jeffry Larson*)