

In recent years, scholars have sought to take the origins of sport back further and further in time. David Block's investigation of baseball's origins, *Baseball Before We Knew It: A Search for the Roots of the Game* (Univ. of Nebraska Pr., 2005), for instance, attempts to find similarities to the modern pastime in medieval stick-and-ball games. Likewise, journalist Emma Levine's *A Game of Polo with a Headless Goat, and Other Bizarre Sports Discovered across Asia* (Andre Deutsch, 2000), though not a scholarly book, is nonetheless able to reveal modern games and recreations as manifestations of activities much older. And books such as the anthology *The Sport of Life and Death: The Mesoamerican Ballgame* (Thames & Hudson, 2001) take the critical exploration of sports to the Western hemisphere, looking at the evidence of sculpture, codices, and archaeological excavations of ball courts to learn about the religious and political aspects of the ancient Olmec-Maya-Aztec games.

The value of Crowther's work is in its general nature. By presenting evidence for sports in nearly every part of the world, he provides substance for contemporary research. The writing is clear and concise, and the solid bibliography includes easily accessible books. *Sport in Ancient Times* is appropriate for libraries from secondary through college levels, and, in fact, is so illuminating that it should be a required opening text for any college course that deals with sports.—Kevin Grace, *Archives & Rare Books Library, University of Cincinnati, Ohio*

U.S. Presidents and Foreign Policy: From 1789 to the Present. Ed. by Carl C. Hodge and Cathal J. Nolan. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-Clío, 2007. 474p. alkaline \$85 (ISBN 1-85109-790-2).

This work examines one by one the major foreign policy actions of each of the United States presidents from George Washington through George W. Bush's first term. The forty-two signed articles are written by historians and political scientists from United States and Canadian universities and institutes.

Articles range in length from six to fifteen pages and include a portrait or photograph of each president. Each entry includes a brief early life and political career summary of the president; a balanced discussion of each of the president's strengths, weaknesses, successes, and failures in foreign policy during their term(s); and several paragraphs on their legacy. For example, John F. Kennedy's entry includes the Bay of Pigs, the Berlin Wall, the Cuban Missile crisis, and Indochina. The entry on James Earl Carter covers the SALT treaties, Ethiopia, the fall of the Shah of Iran, and the Iran hostage crisis. Entries include a year-by-year chronology of international events during the president's term and a bibliography with journal articles and books. Several entries include a map; for example, Korea (Harry S. Truman) and Vietnam (Lyndon Johnson). An appendix of primary source documents is a useful feature and includes the Monroe Doctrine, Woodrow Wilson's Fourteen Points, and the Truman Doctrine. Completing the work are an extensive chronology of the foreign relations of the United States from 1776 through 2004 and an index.

Several other reference titles would make fine companion volumes. Glenn Hastedt's one-volume *Encyclopedia of American Foreign Policy* (Facts On File, 2004) is a handy ready reference. Lester H. Brune's three-volume *Chronological History of U.S. Foreign Relations* (Routledge, 2003) includes many photographs and pictures that provide readers with a visual context to historical events. Bruce W. Jentleson's four-volume *Encyclopedia of U.S. Foreign Relations* (Oxford Univ. Press, 1997) remains one of the most authoritative works on United States foreign policy, with 1,024 essays ranging from several paragraphs to fifteen pages in length.

Written in clear language and conveniently arranged by president, *U.S. Presidents and Foreign Policy* provides a single-volume, handy resource for students and general readers who want an overview of a particular president's foreign policy actions. It is recommended for public and college libraries.—Eva Lautemann, *Director of Learning Resources Center, Georgia Perimeter College, Clarkston*

The U.S. Supreme Court. Ed. by Thomas Tandy Lewis. Magill's Choice series. Pasadena, Calif.: Salem, 2007. 3 vols. alkaline \$207 (ISBN 978-1-58765-363-6).

In the editor's introduction to *The U.S. Supreme Court*, St. Cloud State University professor Lewis opines, "Anyone who thinks the law is dull should study the work of the Supreme Court" (xxvi). Indeed, the 2005–2006 Court term produced rulings on such controversial topics as trials of detainees by military commissions, physician-assisted suicide, voting rights, no-knock residential searches, and military recruitment on college campuses. These cases and more are discussed in *The U.S. Supreme Court*. The set is adapted from an earlier, award-winning Salem reference set co-edited by Lewis titled *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Supreme Court* (Salem, 2001).

The U.S. Supreme Court addresses only 395 topics, as compared to 1,075 in *Encyclopedia of the U.S. Supreme Court*. This reduction is partially compensated for by the addition of an appendix summarizing the Court's rulings in more than six hundred cases. The new three-volume survey incorporates and updates one-third of the original entries. It also "completely replaces more than fifty outdated articles and adds twenty-six entirely new articles" (xiv). In this mix are more than twenty new cases, updates to key topics (for example, abortion, environmental law, gay and lesbian rights, war and civil liberties), and biographies of recent Court appointees (Chief Justice John Roberts and Associate Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr.).

This title is one of Salem's Magill's Choice reference series, which emphasizes affordability and textual clarity. *The U.S. Supreme Court* is an ideal addition to the series because it delivers on its promise "to meet the growing need among students and members of the general public for clear, concise, authoritative, and up-to-date information about the Court" (xi). It serves both as an introductory work *and* as an excellent guide to other scholarly sources of Supreme Court biographical, historical, procedural, and interpretive information. The