

Reference Books

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Editor

America in Revolt During the 1960s and 1970s. By Rodney P. Carlisle and Geoffrey Golson. Turning Points: Actual and Alternate Histories. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2008. 258p. acid-free \$85 (ISBN 978-1-85109-883-5).

The “what if” game has long been a favorite form of political discussion. What if the South had been allowed to secede? What if Hitler had invaded England early in World War II? What if (fill in the blank) had been elected president, instead of the actual winner? Spinning out the results of the “what if” game can keep political junkies happily occupied for hours.

America in Revolt During the 1960s and 1970s turns the game into a teaching tool. Taking twelve situations from the turbulent decades of the title, it first outlines the actual events and results of such important turning points as John F. Kennedy’s assassination, the escalation of the Vietnam War under President Lyndon B. Johnson, the killing of four students by National Guardsmen at Kent State. It then presents alternate endings, speculating about how one event would lead to another. What other, subsequent, elections would have been influenced and changed? What legislation would have passed? What defeated? What leaders who emerged from the actual events would have remained in obscurity? What others would have come to prominence? How profoundly different would the United States and the world be if events had turned out differently? At the end of each chapter, after the presentation of the alternate history, the authors offer discussion questions for use in class, as well as brief bibliographies for further reading.

In appearance, *America in Revolt* is both attractive and useful. Throughout each chapter are ample illustrations of actual events. The typography of the book helps keep the focus on the difference between the real and the speculative, as the alternate history is presented in boxed, shaded text.

Although histories of the intense decades of the sixties and seventies abound, none are quite like this. For one thing, many concentrate on one aspect of the era, rather than this more comprehensive approach. Titles such as *Make Love, Not War: The Sexual Revolution, An Unfettered History* (Little Brown, 2000), *Civil Rights: An A-Z Reference of the Movement That Changed America* (Louis Publications, 2005), or *Encyclopedia of the Vietnam War* (Oxford Univ. Pr., 2000) concentrate on one aspect of the era. Others, such as *The Martin Luther King, Jr., Encyclopedia* (Greenwood, 2008), are biographies of major figures. This title takes a more comprehensive approach, as well as a more innovative one.

While speculating about what didn’t happen can lead one down unproductive roads, *America in Revolt* avoids this by its careful juxtaposition of the actual and the what ifs. Its main purpose is as a teaching tool, a job it should do admirably.

High school libraries would find this a fine addition.—
Terry Ann Mood, Professor Emerita, University of Colorado at Denver

Annual Review of Global Peace Operations, 2008. Ed. by A. S. Bah. Boulder, Colo.: Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2008. 375p. acid free \$27.50 paper (ISBN 978-1-58826-564-7).

The first United Nations peacekeeping operation was launched in 1947 in response to the civil war in Greece. Since then the number of peacekeeping missions under the auspices of the UN, NATO, and other intergovernmental bodies has grown substantially. Peacekeeping operations were the focus of the *Encyclopedia of International Peacekeeping Operations*, published in 1999 by ABC-CLIO.

As the number and scope of peacekeeping operations grows, the need for an annual publication to monitor such operations worldwide is apparent. To fill this need, the Center on International Cooperation’s Global Peace Operations program has published the *Annual Review of Global Peace Operations* yearly since 2006. The Center on International Cooperation, an independent institution housed at New York University, uses this source to compile data on UN and non-UN peacekeeping operations and also to provide analysis of the success or failure of each mission.

In this latest edition, a “strategic summary” providing an overall look at global peace operations in the year 2007 is presented first, followed by essays on current topics in the peacekeeping and mediation field. These essays are followed by “Mission Reviews,” “Mission Notes,” and “Statistics.”

Mission reviews are overviews of seven peacekeeping missions of particular interest for 2007, among them Afghanistan, Kosovo, and Liberia. These entries average about eight pages and provide an analysis of the country’s current political situation, brief background information on the particular conflict, and key developments in the success or failure of the peacekeeping mission. Useful maps are included as well as sidebars with basic facts about the mission, including the mission name, sponsoring organization, number of troops and/or police, name of the force commander, and more.

Mission notes are shorter entries that cover twenty-one other current peacekeeping missions, mostly lesser-known operations (a notable exception being Iraq). Shorter than the mission reviews, the mission notes are nevertheless useful summaries of the political situation and status of the peacekeeping mission in each country.

Statistics include aggregate global statistics on UN and non-UN missions with tabular and pie chart data such as the country of origin of UN military personnel, staff, and police forces. Detailed mission-by-mission statistics are also available for UN and non-UN missions.

As the Center on International Cooperation is not affiliated with the UN or other governmental bodies, the *Annual Review of Global Peace Operations* can be candid and straightforward in its assessments of the peacekeeping efforts it covers. Example: the mission notes entry covering the Sri Lanka