

Reference Books

Carolyn J. Radcliff

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

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Monitoring Mission (SLMM) pulls no punches in describing the mission's status as of 2007: "By the occasion of the SLMM's fifth operational anniversary in February 2007, its weekly reports read more like war tallies than the lists of cease-fire violations it recorded during its first three years" (133). Some librarians may find such judgmental analysis out of place in a reference work; others may find it refreshing.

In determining whether or not to purchase this source, librarians should keep in mind that the United Nations website (www.un.org) provides free information on its peacekeeping missions, including background notes for each mission, the official peacekeeping mandate, facts and figures, and UN documents. A smaller library with access to a print or online reference source that updates political developments in the nations of the world may find that this source is not worth the cost, given the amount of free information available through the UN. For larger public and academic libraries, however, the in-depth coverage and analysis make this a worthy addition to an international relations reference collection.—*Peter Bliss, Reference Librarian, University of California, Riverside*

College Financing Information for Teens: Tips for a Successful Financial Life: Including Facts about Planning, Saving, and Paying for Post-Secondary Education, with Information about College Savings Plans, Scholarships, Grants, Loans, Military Service, and More. Ed. by Karen Bellenir. Teen Finance Series. Detroit, Mich.: Omnigraphics, 2008. 400p. alkaline \$65 (ISBN 978-0-7808-0988-8).

The full title of this addition to the Teen Finance Series indicates the comprehensive nature of this work. It contains a wealth of information necessary for almost all prospective college students.

As college costs rise and the options for financing a college education proliferate, the topic of postsecondary education becomes bewilderingly complex. To provide guidance, this practical handbook discusses the broad topics of whether or not college is the best option; how to select an institution of higher education; tips on saving, paying, and borrowing for college; finding specialized college options; and suggestions for pursuing more information.

Each major section hones in on specifics: a high school action plan; standardized tests; choosing among a four-year college, a vocational school, or a community college; Section 529 Plans; financial aid packages, student loans, and PLUS loans; and educational benefits of service such as AmeriCorps and Peace Corps or Armed Forces membership.

Similar to the other titles in this series, *College Financing Information for Teens* offers sidebar information in sections labeled "Quick Tips," "It's a Fact!" "What's It Mean?" and "Remember!" All sources are documented and many include addresses, phone numbers, and websites. For more information, the book directs the reader to a "Directory of Financial Aid Resources" and a "Directory of State Higher Education Agencies."

Several other current titles offer information similar to

this volume. *The Everything Paying for College Book* by Nathan Brown and Sheryle A. Proper (Adams Media, 2005), provides a broad look at the various aspects of financing a college education. This includes saving in advance; scholarships, grants, and financial aid; part-time jobs and internships; and credit card pitfalls. This title also contains creative ways for students to supplement their income.

Gen and Kelly Tanabe's *1001 Ways To Pay for College* (SuperCollege, 2d ed., 2005) is a quick-reading and attractive volume that emphasizes a variety of creative ways to finance a college education. Topics such as unusual scholarships, contests, reward programs, and loan forgiveness programs provide very interesting reading and will spark the imagination of enterprising students. The book also contains a lot of good tips for saving money during the college years and making every college tuition penny work for the student's benefit.

FastWeb! College Gold: The Step-by-Step Guide to Paying for College by Mark Kantrowitz (FastWeb, 2006), is also very user-friendly and well organized. It begins with a project plan for the student, then takes a look at federal and state programs, grants, scholarships, and the help that high school guidance counselors and college financial aid administrators can provide. The conclusion helps the reader steer clear of problems in the final decision about college financing. This volume includes a survey of students and parents that helps to identify where the most help is needed in the college financial picture.

In addition to these titles, which provide general supplementary material, there are several titles that focus on specific aspects of the college financing picture. *The 529 College Savings Plan* by Richard A. Feigenbaum and David J. Morton (Sphinx Publishing, 2003) and *The Best Way To Save for College: A Complete Guide To 529 Plans* (Savingforcollege.com Publications, 2003/2004) both discuss the Internal Revenue Code of 1996 (Qualified Tuition Program) which provides families with tax advantaged ways to save for college. Both provide state-by-state assessment of the plans.

Many good books on managing college costs are available. *College Financing Information for Teens: Tips for a Successful Financial Life* has the advantage of being comprehensive, reliable, and easy to navigate. Recommended for any library serving teen readers and their parents.—*Betty Porter, Education Services Librarian, Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio*

Daily Life in the New Testament. By James W. Ermatinger. Daily Life Through History. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2008. 184p. alkaline \$49.95 (ISBN 978-0-313-34175-5).

Daily Life in the New Testament is an appealing book. Its purpose it is to "set the stage for understanding daily life during the New Testament period, mainly in Palestine" (xxiv), and it does a commendable job of fulfilling that purpose. However, although it does provide excellent information, its arrangement makes it easier to read like a history book than to use as a quick reference tool. The book has ten chapters with each chapter covering a certain aspect of Jewish socio-