

## SOURCES

Supreme Court opinions, reports, and memos. Different documents allow the reader to explore how the presidents themselves saw their powers, and to understand the thinking of those who agreed or disagreed with these assertions of executive authority. Though not directly presented or annotated, the Constitution is discussed within the other document annotations, providing Constitutional context that supports or refutes the claims made by document authors.

The volume presents sixty-four selected documents with context to explain not only the particular presidential powers being examined but also the people, politics, and other compounding forces that shape our government. Though documents from many presidential eras are explored, the largest groups of documents are from the presidencies of George W. Bush (twelve), Barack Obama (nine), and Franklin Delano Roosevelt (nine).

End matter includes a timeline that gives brief context for each event related to the presented documents, additional reading, and an index. The timeline is not particularly useful, as the documents are already presented in a chronological format, but it may be helpful for quick references. The additional readings are organized alphabetically by author, rather than by subject or time period, which may present a challenge for novice researchers.

In comparison to a similar work, CQ Press's *The Evolving Presidency: Landmark Documents, 1787–2015*, edited by Michael Nelson (2015), there is some, but not much, overlap between documents explored. Additionally, *Presidential Power* is unique in its approach to annotate the primary sources themselves, instead of providing commentary ahead of or after the document text.

*Presidential Power* is a good resource for high school or undergraduate students exploring the presidency and its balance with the other branches of federal government. It exposes students to the use of primary documents—which are critical to this area of research—and provides enough context for those who are exploring the subject for the first time.—Emily Mross, *Business and Public Administration Librarian, Penn State Harrisburg, Middletown, Pennsylvania*

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***Race in American Film: Voices and Visions That Shaped a Nation.*** Edited by Daniel Bernardi and Michael Green. Santa Barbara, CA: Greenwood, 2017. 3 vols. 1,026 p. \$294.00 (ISBN 978-0-313-39839-1). E-book available (978-0-313-39840-7), call for pricing.

*Race in American Film* is a three-volume encyclopedic treatment of race and racism in American cinema, from the early film era to modern times. The editors, Daniel Bernardi and Michael Green, address the question of “American cinema’s place in American and world culture with respect to the question of race” (xxx). For the purpose of this three-volume set, they define “race” broadly, using Omi and Winant’s definition of race as a “‘shifting yet reforming’ complex of meanings that works to shape our sense of selves and those we see as similar—thereby allowing us to see others as different.”

(xxi) The concept of race, therefore, is subject to change over time and among different social groups.

The volumes that make up *Race in American Film* cover three categories: films that are considered as outright racist; films that attempt to subvert (however poorly or imperfectly) racism; and those films by nonwhite directors that feature nonwhite characters and themes (xxvi). The entries, signed by their authors, are listed in alphabetical order with cross references to other entries in the volumes. Each topic has a “Further Viewing” section, suggesting other films covering the same topics but not discussed in the encyclopedia, and a “Further Reading” section that includes bibliographical sources used to research the article as well as additional references for study. Each entry is written in accessible English, without jargon, and should be easily understandable by most general readers. At the beginning of each volume is an alphabetical list of entries and a list of films broken down by era (“Early Film to 1928,” “Classic and Mid-century Era, 1929–1969,” and “Contemporary Films, 1970–”). There is also a guide to related topics that lists films dealing with a particular subject or genre, such as film noir or immigration, and volume 3 contains a comprehensive bibliography and index, as well as a list of contributors and their credentials. Bernardi and Green, the editors, are film and media scholars at San Francisco State University and Arizona State University, respectively, and their contributors are experts in film studies, sociology, history, ethnic studies, and related fields.

*Race in American Film* succeeds well in its intent to present a comprehensive history and reflection of race and racism in American cinema. It is admirably current, discussing events such as the Black Lives Matter movement and films released as recently as 2015. Missing are entries on some contemporary African American directors, such as Steve McQueen and Ava DuVernay; it is to be hoped that a future edition would include some of these filmmakers as well. Overall, *Race in American Film* nicely fulfills its stated purpose, providing in one resource a good jumping off place for readers interested in the topic of race and film and giving researchers suggestions for further study. Highly recommended for high schools, public libraries, and colleges and universities, particularly those that support film and media studies programs.—Amanda K. Sprochi, *Health Sciences Cataloger, University of Missouri, Columbia*

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***The Routledge Companion to Media and Race.*** Edited by Christopher P. Campbell. New York: Routledge, 2017. 326 p. \$204.00 (ISBN 978-1-138-02072-6). E-book available (978-1-315-77822-8), call for pricing.

In recent years, Routledge has published several works on various aspects of race and media, including *The Race and Media Reader*, edited by Gilbert B. Rodman (2014). The book under review complements Rodman’s earlier work, although it has a different purpose and focus within this well-studied subject. Campbell also carves out a bit of space for his work

in a crowded field by concentrating solely on race and media as opposed to coupling them with gender and/or class, as is often the case.

The stated purpose of Campbell's work is to be a "comprehensive guide for scholars, students, and media professionals who seek to understand key debates about the impact of media messages on racial attitudes and understanding" (i). This is attempted by collocating twenty-eight essays written by scholars in media studies, communications, journalism, and other disciplines. The essays are presented in three parts: "Studying Race and Media: Theories and Approaches," "Race, the Medium, the Message," and "Race, Ethnicity, and Intersectionality." Part 1 does well in introducing several interesting theories and approaches to studying the subject. Part 2 delves into many of the contemporary issues within various mediums, including ethnic media, sports media, advertising, social media, and others; however, this section did not live up to the "comprehensive guide" goal set out by the editor. Conspicuously absent, given their prominence in contemporary American culture, were stand-alone essays and analyses of gaming and the political media; in fact, the 2016 elections are not covered in any depth. Part 3 is generally representative of the prominent ethnic groups in the United States and delves into some international coverage of India, Europe, East Asia, and others.

Readers would be hard-pressed to identify this collection of essays as a reference book, but it does bring together essays on important aspects of race and media, and it would be useful for academic libraries to consider purchasing.—*Brent D. Singleton, Coordinator for Reference Services, California State University, San Bernardino*

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***The Use and Abuse of Police Power in America: Historical Milestones and Current Controversies.*** Edited by Gina Robertiello. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2017. 370 p. \$71.20 (ISBN 978-1-4408-4372-3). E-book available (978-1-4408-4373-0), call for pricing.

This reference book is a timely encyclopedia that captures some of the most recent and critical events that involved law enforcement, as well as a number of historically significant milestones in the relationship between law enforcement and citizens in the United States. This book is a quick reference that is structured in a way to give researchers an easy-to-use timeline of events, technological advances, changes in the law, and debates and incidents with police that have infiltrated everyday life and the news.

This reference covers an expansive date and topic range, from the 1600s to the present, from colonial night watches to racial profiling. It is subdivided by broader topics (wiretapping, corruption, and body cameras, as examples), specific case studies (the Trayvon Martin shooting, Frank Serpico, and Teddy Roosevelt and the fight against police corruption), and important court proceedings (*Brown v. Mississippi*, *Miranda v. Arizona*).

A strength of this reference is its effort to objectively cover the number of recent incidents that involved police officers causing the death of minorities. Contributors try to offer unbiased accounts and offer little to no speculation on unverified elements of the interactions, but bibliographies for further reading are presented to offer researchers the opportunity to investigate these incidents on their own and draw their own conclusions based on their findings. It also benefits from being one of perhaps very few reference texts that examines the criminal justice system through the lens of policing in accessible entries that would provide useful starting points for researchers at a variety of reading levels.

I would recommend this reference to two- and four-year undergraduate institutions, especially those with criminal justice programs. The analysis of policing in America is unlikely to wane in the coming years, and this book will retain its relevance for years to come.—*Amanda Babirad, Instructional Services Librarian, Morrisville State College, Morrisville, New York*

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***Today's Foreign Policy Issues: Democrats and Republicans.*** By Trevor Rubenzer. Across the Aisle. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2017, 400 p. \$97.00 (ISBN 978-1-4408-4366-2). E-book available (ISBN 978-1-4408-4367-9), call for pricing.

*Today's Foreign Policy Issues: Democrats and Republicans*, as the title suggests, examines international and "intermestic" policy issues from the perspectives of our two major political parties. According to the introduction, this book "examines the proposals and positions of the two parties—from profound disagreements to areas of common ground" (p. viii); however, this nuanced approach is difficult to achieve in a volume written for the novice researcher. Further, the structure of the articles stresses differences rather than similarities. Presenting political parties as monolithic structures is also problematic. While parties have unifying platforms that are referred to often throughout the book, they tend to obscure internal divisions. This partisan framework also seems to lend itself to deepening cleavages, both real and imagined, for readers approaching the material from entrenched perspectives. And what of independent, libertarian, and green-party positions, among others?

The work is written by Trevor Rubenzer, and the singular voice allows for consistency of treatment across topics. The disadvantage of the single-author model is that we don't hear the voices of experts on various topics covered. There is a unifying organizational template used for entries that enables readers to seamlessly compare and contrast topics. Every article begins with an overview paragraph followed by bulleted lists that summarize the positions of each party, a historical overview, and then sections that go into further detail about each party. "Further Reading" lists guide the reader to content from various sources that are readily available on the open web, at least for the time being. Articles are clearly written, avoid jargon, and provide concise overviews