

The purpose of Editor's Shelf is to highlight the following: new editions of important previously published works; reissues of significant works that had been out of print; U.S. editions of works published elsewhere in English; additional volumes in a publisher's series that *MultiCultural Review* has reviewed; translations; previously published works that have been reissued in a new form, such as audiocassettes, audio CDs, floppy disks, CD-ROM, or DVD; and online reference sources. Paperback reprints are not included unless the reprint contains at least some new material. The initial releases in a publisher's series and works that have undergone major changes in the course of their republication in new edition or new media will receive full-fledged reviews in *MCR*. The Publisher Directory contains addresses and phone numbers of publishers whose works appear in Editor's Shelf.

REISSUES OF OUT-OF-PRINT WORKS

Simon, Andrea. *Bashert: A Granddaughter's Holocaust Quest*. Jackson: Univ. of Mississippi, 2004. 288 pp. ISBN 1-57806-481-3, \$28.00.

Inspired by her grandmother's stories about the family ancestors (originally from Vilchin, Belarus), the author shares the results of her complex family roots research project, with special attention to the Holocaust years in Belarus and the extermination of about 50,000 Jews in 1942 by Nazi troops and their local collaborators in the forests of Brona Gora (between the cities of Brest and Minsk). The book is based on historical accounts, archival documents, reference books, newspaper articles, audio and visual cassette recordings, plus the author's visits to her grandmother's ancestral village as well as the execution place of the Jews. Numerous materials were translated from the Belarusian, German, Polish, Russian, and Yiddish languages; copious footnotes accompany the 11 chapters of the book; and there are also relevant family photos and a detailed index. Given the scarcity of English publications on the Holocaust in Belarus in general, and especially on the events described by the author, the book is recommended as a useful addition to Holocaust library collections.

—Vladimir F. Wertsman
Astoria, New York

NEW VOLUMES IN SERIES

American Originals

Brackett, Virginia. *A Home in the Heart: The Story of Sandra Cisneros*. Greensboro, N.C. Morgan Reynolds,

2005. 128 pp. ISBN 1-931798-42-7, \$21.95.

This inspiring book for middle school and high school students is organized by chapters and contains a time line, sources, a bibliography, an index, and black-and-white photos throughout the book.

Brackett uses Cisneros's words, taken from her writings and interviews, to present the story from the eyes of this acclaimed Latina author. The only daughter of seven children, she lived between Chicago and Mexico. She struggled to define herself as a person and a writer because she did not feel she belonged in any world, Hispanic or white. Growing up was lonely. She created an imaginary world, which played a big role in her survival. Her childhood deeply influenced the subjects she writes about. Frustrated in her early adult life as a writer, she "[f]elt trapped by the need to make a living"—a common feeling among artists.

In addition to presenting Cisneros's life, Brackett offers a critical introduction to her works of fiction, memoir, and poetry. This appealing volume should lead students to explore more of this groundbreaking author's writings for themselves.

The American Religious Experience

Morgan, Diane. *The Buddhist Experience in America*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2004. 373 pp. ISBN 0-313-32491-3, \$55.00.

This book explores the history of Buddhism around the world and in the United States, how the different schools of Buddhism came to be, and basics of the religion. The purpose of this book is to introduce Buddhism to high school students and general adult readers and to provide an understanding of diverse religions in the United States.

Although there are relatively few Buddhists in the United States (immigrants from east and southeast Asia who practiced the religion in their country of origin as well as non-Asians who have converted to the religion), Buddhism has had a great impact on American culture. For example, we hear about concepts such as Nirvana and meditation in the mainstream media. The Dalai Lama is a well-known international figure, and many entertainers have become involved in efforts to free Tibet from Chinese occupation.

The book is divided into chapters that include an introduction, The Buddha and his Teaching, American Zen, and Tibetan Buddhism. Resource information includes an in-depth appendix with a list of important Buddhists, a glossary, a list of research questions and projects, lists of print and nonprint resources, and an index.

At Issue

Boaz, John, ed. *The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2005. 76 pp. ISBN 0-7377-1981-8, \$27.45 (cl); 0-7377-1982-6, \$19.95 (pb).

Einfield, Jann, ed. *Is America Helping Afghanistan?* Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2005. 127 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2326-2, \$27.45 (cl); 0-7377-2327-0, \$19.95 (pb).

Friedman, Lauri S., ed. *What Motivates Suicide Bombers?* Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2005. 93 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2320-3, \$27.45 (cl); 0-7377-2321-1, \$19.95 (pb).

Nakaya, Andrea C., ed. *Does the World Hate the United States?* Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2005. 139 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2368-8, \$27.45 (cl); 0-7377-2369-6, \$19.95 (pb).

Plunkett, Jeff, ed. *Is Racism a Serious Problem?* Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2005. 126 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2400-5, \$27.45 (cl); 0-7377-2401-3, \$19.95 (pb).

Geared to students at the secondary level, At Issue features articles that present multiple sides of a current controversy. The five latest titles in the series contain from ten to seventeen articles, most of which first appeared in newspapers or current affairs magazines.

Given the thorny nature of the problem, one would expect *The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict* to be the longest volume in the series; in fact, it is the shortest. The twelve articles, all a few pages long, offer opposing viewpoints of a limited number of issues—who is to blame for the conflict, whether Arab states want to see Israel destroyed (with the “yes” perspective written by someone who is not an Arab), the role of the United States, Israel’s strategy of withdrawal vs. military might, a Palestinian state, and the security wall.

Other volumes raise controversy through their commentators. *What Motivates Suicide Bombers?* includes an article by Osama Bin Laden blaming American imperialism. *Is Racism a Serious Problem?* offers an interview with the former Grand Dragon of the Ku Klux Klan, who now runs a racist web site. (Additional topics of note in that volume include environmental racism and racial profiling.) And *Does the World Hate the United States?*, which surveys opinion in Western Europe, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and South Korea, also contains a homophobic screed by a well-known film critic. This critic, Michael Medved, blames Hollywood’s moral vacuity and focus on sexual decadence for the anti-Americanism that spawned the September 11 attacks.

Each of the volumes concludes with a list of organizations, a bibliography, and an index.

Coming to America

Hossell, Karen Price. *The Irish*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2005. 207 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2154-5, \$33.70 (cl);

0-7377-2155-3, \$22.45 (pb).

Schur, Joan Brodsky. *The Arabs*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2005. 218 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2148-0, \$33.70 (cl); 0-7377-2149-9, \$22.45 (pb).

Shane, C. J. *The Chinese*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2005. 206 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2150-2, \$33.70 (cl); 0-7377-2151-0, \$22.45 (pb).

Shane, C. J. *The Mexicans*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2005. 221 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2156-1, \$33.70 (cl); 0-7377-2157-X, \$22.45 (pb).

This new series on American immigration from Greenhaven Press shares a name with an older series from Barron’s, but these are smaller-sized books for grades six and up that combine primary and secondary sources. Black-and-white photos are small and sparse; the focus here is on the text, which includes works of established historians, noted literary authors, major political figures, and ordinary immigrants, all, for the most part, from the group itself.

The volume on Irish Americans addresses why the Irish left, covering immigrants from the early nineteenth century to the present. Most of the focus in the rest of the book is on the lives nineteenth-century Irish immigrants made in the United States, with articles on Irish in the Civil War, the role of women, tenement life, and the Irish in politics and in the labor movement. The book’s final section describes prominent Irish Americans, including boxer John L. Sullivan, political patriarch Joseph P. Kennedy, author Frank McCourt, and actor Gabriel Byrne.

The Arabs begins with a history of conditions in countries of origin and why Arabs left for America. The articles point out that Arabs fled religious, political, and economic oppression and transferred loyalty to their adopted country. Some articles address religious differences; the first wave of immigrants were predominantly Christian, though today Muslims predominate. The longest section, understandably, discusses anti-Arab prejudice and efforts to build bridges and counter stereotypes. Prominent Arab Americans profiled in the final section include poets Kahlil Gibran and Naomi Shihab Nye, literary and cultural critic Edward Said, actor Tony Shalhoub, and activist Ralph Nader.

The first two sections of *The Chinese* address waves of immigration and conditions for these immigrants before the Second World War, with the third section covering the impact of the 1949 communist revolution, high-tech immigrants in the 1980s and 1990s, and illegal immigration today. What distinguishes this volume is the prominence of many of the authors of selections, including Maxine Hong Kingston, Ruthanne Lum McCunn, Bruce Edward Hall, Jade Snow Wong, Iris Chang, and Ben Fong-Torres. Notable Chinese Americans profiled include cellist Yo-Yo Ma, skater Michelle Kwan, and scientist David Ho.

In *The Mexicans*, Shane includes first-person contributions by writer Gary Soto and labor activist César Chávez, two

people who will be familiar to many readers. Most of the other contributions are the work of historians who examine the impact of the 1848 war between the United States and Mexico on Mexican communities of the affected regions and subsequent waves of Mexican immigration. Many of the articles describe encounters with prejudice and economic exploitation. Prominent Mexican Americans profiled include labor organizer (and colleague of Chávez) Dolores Huerta, scientist Mario Molina, golfer Nancy López, and musician Carlos Santana.

All four books conclude with a chronology, a bibliography, and an index.

The Complete Idiot's Guide to . . .

Gach, Gary. *Understanding Buddhism*. Indianapolis: Alpha Books, 2004. 390 pp. ISBN 1-59257-277-4, \$18.95 (pb).

This second edition, geared to high school students and adults, is written in an informal down-to-earth style with humor, a popular feature of the *Idiot's* guides. Author Gach, a student of Buddhism for 40 years, found the highly organized structure of the series to be compatible with the highly organized belief system of Buddhism.

The life and teaching of the Buddha is introduced through in-depth historical information. The reader learns about major world religions, such as Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism,

Islam, and Hinduism and how they work in our life today. Gach deals with Buddhism by using broad brushstrokes. The subjects range from "The Birth of a Sage. . ." to "Buddha's Way: The Eightfold Path to dealing with religious extremism," and those who "pursue terror in the name of God." The latter section has been added for the second edition.

It is difficult to resist sitting down by the fireplace with book in hand and reading all 390 pages in one sitting. This user-friendly book includes an in-depth table of contents, a chronology, a glossary, a quick reference about Buddhism, and an extensive index. This book is a good overview for students to learn about Buddhism and at the same time better understand its relationship to other religions.

Contemporary American Ethnic Issues

Danico, Mary Yu and Ng, Franklin. *Asian American Issues*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2004. 191 pp. ISBN 0-313-31965-0, \$45.00.

Asian American Issues is the fifth book in this series geared to middle school and high school students. Issues about race can divide whole communities and even countries, like the Middle East and South Asia, to name only a few. Asian immigrants arrived in the United States more than 200 years ago, and today they are the third largest group of minorities.

Issues that affect Asian Americans today include media

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stereotypes and intergenerational conflict. The collection of essays and articles also points to cultural, religious, and other differences among the various Asian-American nationalities.

This volume is excellent for student report research and encourages open discussions in the classroom guided by a teacher. It contains an objective presentation with viewpoints from a variety of sources; selected works at the end of each chapter preceded by questions specific to the chapter; original essays; a resource guide that includes suggested reading, films, and videos (documentaries, feature films, and short films); web sites; organizations; and an in-depth index.

Culture In. . .

Guile, Melanie. *Australia*. Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4109-1132-2, \$19.45.

Guile, Melanie. *India*. Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4109-1134-9, \$19.45.

Guile, Melanie. *Malaysia*. Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4109-1133-0, \$19.45.

Guile, Melanie. *Vietnam*. Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 1-4109-1135-7, \$19.45.

Written with older elementary school children in mind, these new books in a now 12-book series feature an appealing format. The author paints a story in pictures with text that reveals the uniqueness of each country. Each volume discusses culture, traditions and customs, minority groups, clothing, food, performing arts, folklore and literature, entertainment, and arts and crafts. Students have an opportunity to meet people from other countries through photographs, text, and maps.

The reader learns that Australia and Malaysia have diverse cultures. India has several religions, languages, and cultures, although the national religion is Hinduism. The student will find out that great industrial growth and technology made the top third of people in India wealthy, but millions are uneducated and go to bed hungry. Vietnam is located between two ancient cultures, the Chinese and the Khmer. Made up of many ethnic groups, the Vietnamese have fought hard for their independence through the years.

Highlighted words in the text appear in the glossary. There is a balance of text and photographs on each page and many sidebars appear throughout the chapter in this child-friendly series.

Cultures of the World

Dubois, Jill. *Korea*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, 2004. 144 pp. Second ed. ISBN 0-7614-1786-9, \$25.95.

Levy, Patricia. *Ireland*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, 2004. 144 pp. Second ed. ISBN 0-7614-1784-2, \$25.95.

Pang, Guek-Cheng. *Canada*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, 2004. 144 pp. Second ed. ISBN 0-7614-1788-5, \$25.95.

Seah, Audrey and Nair, Charissa M. *Vietnam*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, 2004. 144 pp. Second ed. ISBN 0-7614-1789-3, \$25.95.

Sheehan, Sean and Black, Angela. *Jamaica*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, 2004. 144 pp. Second ed. ISBN 0-7614-1785-0, \$25.95.

Sheehan, Sean and Samiuddin Shahrezad. *Pakistan*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark Books, 2004. 144 pp. Second ed. ISBN 0-7614-1787-7, \$25.95.

This series reads like a travelogue. Each volume includes an overview in the introduction to the featured country. Designed for older elementary and middle school students, the books contain an easy-to-read text accompanied by maps, colorful photos, and detailed sidebars. Each one covers geography, history, government, economy, environment, lifestyle, religion, language, arts, leisure, festivals, and food. A recipe is included.

The volume on Ireland contains a recipe for modern Irish stew with a story about its role in the potato famine of the middle 1800s. A chapter in the Jamaica volume describes the British educational system still used in the country; schools are free to all Jamaican children ages six to fifteen. The Pakistan volume features a large color photograph and biographical information on Benazir Bhutto, the first woman to become the head of state in a modern Islamic country. She became premier in 1988 and later was elected prime minister.

The book on Korea discusses both North and South Korea. Dubois details the war of the early 1950s, the division of the country, and the tensions that have persisted since (and have recently escalated). The author contrasts life in communist North Korea with that of the democratic, capitalist South.

Each volume includes an extensive time line, a glossary, a list of print and nonprint sources for further information, and an index.

Daily Life Through History

Bianchi, Robert Steven. *Daily Life of The Nubians*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2004. 284 pp. ISBN 0-313-32501-4, \$49.95.

This volume provides middle and high school students with the most up-to-date, historically accurate information about ancient Nubia and the day-to-day lives of the Nubians. After recent massive archeological surveys, new detailed information was discovered about the ancient black African

society that existed for about 3,000 years beginning in 3500 B.C.

The book is organized in chronological order. Chapters are divided into subheads that detail the military and warfare, government, language, relations with neighboring civilizations, work and the economy, engineering and architecture, housing, transportation, family life, life cycle events, women's roles, art, music and dance, literature, science, and religion.

Included are maps, illustrations and photographs, a historical time line of Nubian history, a glossary, a list of abbreviations, a bibliography for further reading, and an index.

Discovering Cultures

De Capua, Sarah, *Korea*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1794-X, \$17.95.

De Capua, Sarah, *Peru*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1796-6, \$17.95.

Gordon, Sharon. *Australia*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1701-5, \$17.95.

Gordon, Sharon. *Germany*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1792-3, \$17.95.

Murphy, Patricia J. *Nigeria*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1795-8, \$17.95.

Roy, Jennifer Rozines and Roy, Gregory. *Jamaica*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1793-1, \$17.95.

These six new volumes make 30 in this series are intended for middle school students. The chapters in each volume include geography, people, daily life, schools, fun activities, and holidays, preceded by a general introduction of the country. The photographs in the books capture people in their everyday surroundings.

Sidebars in each book include maps, art projects, songs, games, festivals, and simple recipes such as *akara* (black-eyed peas) from Nigeria. The featured country's flag is included

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along with information about money, how to count to ten, population, the capital, famous people, a glossary, a book list, and an index.

All the books in this series include web sites with valuable information. For example, students can listen to Peru's national anthem and learn more about the indigenous Quechua or how to say colors and numbers in Quechua. A Kids' Guide is on the Jamaican web site, with additional information on people, children, food, language, history, geography, and music.

This series has a child-friendly design with easy-to-read text. It uses many attractive color photos of children.

Great Journeys

Wells, Don. *The Silk Road*. New York: Weigl, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 1-59036-260-8, \$7.95 (pb).

Wells, Don. *The Spice Trade*. New York: Weigl, 2005. 32 pp. ISBN 1-59036-261-6, \$7.95 (pb).

The books in this series are written for students in fifth grade and up and present the material in an appealing, easy-to-read format. *The Silk Road* informs students about the ancient passageway, a series of caravan tracks 4,000 miles across China. The passageway crossed the deserts and mountains of Central Asia (shown on the full-color, glossy book cover) and Northern India and skirted the Mediterranean Sea. This route was important for the transport of goods and for strengthening political strongholds. Genghis Khan seized parts of the Silk Road and created empires. The road also carried new ideas and religions, including Islam and Buddhism, to other lands.

Students will learn from *The Spice Trade* that as far back as 50,000 B.C., people used plants with strong aromas to make their food taste better, and mummies were preserved with a mixture of spices that included cloves.

The books are organized in two-page chapters with large bold headings at the top of each. In *The Silk Road*, the headings include Bridging East and West, Silk Road Map, and Life on the Silk Road. Some of the *Spice Trade* headings are The Long History of Spice Use, Spice Wars, and Legendary People in the Spice Trade. Each book includes sidebars, a two-page color map, a glossary, a reading list, ideas for further research, web site listings, and an index. Both books include quizzes and simple activities. *The Spice Trade* activity, for instance, teaches students how to make a simple compass.

Green Light Readers

Medina, Jane. *Tomás Rivera*. San Diego, Calif.: Harcourt, 2004. 24 pp. ISBN 0-15-205145-7, \$3.95 (pb).

Tomás Rivera is an inspiring story written for children five to seven years old and for new readers of all ages. Written from a child's point of view, the story is about a young boy whose family were migrant workers. He wanted to emulate

his grandpa and tell stories too.

The boy learns about a special place, the library, where he can find ideas for his stories. The book is based on a true story about the notable Mexican-American writer (depicted in the award-winning 2000 picture book by Pat Mora, *Tomás and the Library Lady*).

The oversized colorful illustrations add to the beauty of the story.

Greenwood Biographies

Garson, Helen S. *Oprah Winfrey: A Biography*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2004. 174 pp. ISBN: 0-313-32339-9, \$29.95.

Gish, Steven D. *Desmond Tutu: A Biography*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2004. 188 pp. ISBN 0-313-32860-9, \$29.95.

Tutu and Winfrey's inspiring biographies are tailored for high school and undergraduate students. Detailed and well-researched information is presented from birth through adulthood, such as family background, education, influences, struggles, successes, and contributions.

Tutu, sometimes called South Africa's Martin Luther King Jr., is known for his leadership and persistence in the struggle against apartheid. The reader gets to know the man with the quick wit and sparkling personality as well as his strong stance on change without violence, even though he faced intense racial hatred and harassment. Students will learn firsthand about apartheid and how it affected Tutu and his family.

Winfrey's name and face, like Tutu's, is recognized by most people around the world. The author paints a candid, balanced, and intimate picture of Oprah, as both a person and a leader. The reader is led through her struggles and successes from her childhood in Mississippi to the present.

In-depth time lines at the beginning of each biography help students understand the significant contributions of these two remarkable people. The glossaries and bibliographies are valuable sources for students when writing reports. The bibliography includes references to mainstream press articles, academic studies, television interviews, reference materials, and Internet sources. Tutu's biography also includes a list of his published works.

Hispanic-American Biographies

Olmstead, Mary. *Cesar Chavez*. Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 64 pp, ISBN 1-4109-0710-4, \$31.36.

Olmstead, Mary. *Judy Baca*. Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 64 pp, ISBN 1-4109-0709-0, \$31.36.

Olmstead, Mary. *Roberto Clemente*. Chicago: Raintree Publishers, 2005. 64 pp. ISBN 1-4109-0711-2, \$31.36.

Olmstead, Mary. *Tito Puente*. Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 64 pp. ISBN 1-4109-0713-9, \$31.36.

This series will enlighten students in third through fifth grades about the fastest-growing group in the United States. The books focus on the years between 1940 and 1970 and show how Hispanic-American men and women have been prominent in history because of their determination and talent.

The subjects in the four biographies overcame racism and left lasting impressions on people they met along the way. Sidebars throughout the series complement and add valuable information to each story. For example, in Baca's biography, the reader learns about muralist Diego Rivera, who wanted to create a new national art, a subject close to Baca's heart. The author also points out that since the early sixties, Baca has taught mural painting to thousands of people, including gang members, and with it the value of having a purpose in life. She continues to give a voice to ordinary people through her mural programs, which impact communities worldwide. Her Great Wall mural program celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary in 2001 and she is now heading the restoration of the early murals. Olmstead alerts readers to places where they can view Baca's murals, including Venice Beach, California, and the Denver International Airport.

In *Cesar Chavez*, the student learns how this great man became a labor leader, fought for fair treatment and better working conditions for migrant farm workers, and helped workers see the value of sticking together. Even as a boy, he was an organizer, assigning his brother and sisters chores, which ultimately gave everyone more time to play. Those years were mostly happy, although he and his siblings often suffered from discrimination in school because of their dark skin. When the state of Arizona seized his family's land in 1937, after their crops failed, they left the state with only a few belongings and moved to California to become migrant workers. These experiences had a profound effect on Chavez's life. His biography will inspire young students to give their all and work as a team.

Clemente, a famous Puerto Rican baseball player, was known for his determination. The author explores how he gave of himself to others less fortunate, especially to kids. He did not let people's negative attitudes about his race bring him down. He died in the course of flying a relief mission to Nicaraguans devastated by a 1972 earthquake. This book teaches the value of giving to others as well as working for one's own betterment.

The volume on Puente recounts his childhood in Spanish Harlem, his early love of music, and his substantial opus of recordings and awards. In his lifetime, he recorded 114 albums, wrote and published over 400 original songs, and adapted 2,000 other songs written for other people. He always added the Latin beat. In 2000, near the end of his life, he still performed between 200 and 300 shows a year. His music brought together people of all ages, races, and cultures.

Each volume includes several black-and-white and color photographs, a time line that lists major events, a glossary, additional reading, names and addresses where students can write for more information, and an index.

History Firsthand

Carey, Charles W., Jr., ed. *Castro's Cuba*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2004. 256 pp. ISBN 0-7377-1654-1, \$34.95 (cl); 0-7377-1655-X, \$23.70 (pb).

Coddon, Karin, ed. *Runaway Slaves*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2004. 256 pp. ISBN 0-7377-1342-9, \$34.95 (cl); 0-7377-1343-7, \$23.70 (pb).

This series of compilations of articles and book excerpts on historical topics now has more than 25 entries. The volume on Cuba takes a largely chronological approach; chapter 1 is titled "Castro Takes Charge," and the final chapter is "Surviving Without Soviet Aid." Sixteen viewpoints on Cuba are included; two are from Castro himself, and one from Che Guevara, though a number of the later ones are from the perspective of American journalists, as well as one British novelist.

The 21 accounts in *Runaway Slaves* are grouped into thematic chapters such as "Peril and Punishment" and "Obstacles to Freedom." Many of the stories come from the memoirs of runaway slaves themselves. One third-person account from Levi Coffin, a conductor on the Underground Railroad, tells of a slave woman who, about to be recaptured, killed her young daughter to keep her from growing up as a slave; this incident helped to inspire Toni Morrison's novel *Beloved*.

The editors of each volume have provided a general introduction, chapter prefaces, and contextual introductions to each account. The books also include chronologies and lists of resources for further research.

In America

Behnke, Alison. *Chinese in America*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2005. 80 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 0-8225-4695-7, \$27.93.

Behnke, Alison. *Italians in America*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2005. 80 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 0-8225-4696-5, \$27.93.

Behnke, Alison. *Mexicans in America*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2005. 80 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 0-8225-3955-1, \$27.93.

Coleman, Lori. *Vietnamese in America*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2005. 72 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 0-8225-3951-9, \$27.93.

Goldstein, Margaret J. *Irish in America*. Minneapolis:

Lerner, 2005. 80 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 0-8225-3950-0, \$27.93.

Taus-Bolstad, Stacy. *Koreans in America*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2005. 80 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 0-8225-4874-7, \$27.93.

Taus-Bolstad, Stacy. *Puerto Ricans in America*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2005. 72 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 0-8225-3953-3, \$27.93.

With the above volumes, this visually attractive series for intermediate readers contains 18 titles in all. Black-and-white and color photographs illustrate prominent members of the group throughout history and today as well as ordinary people in their homes and communities celebrating festivals and going about their daily lives.

Each book has a similar three-part structure. The first part covers life in the original country and the factors that drove the immigrants to the United States. In the case of Puerto Ricans, who became part of the United States after the 1898 war with Spain, the book covers their migration to the mainland, and the book on Mexican Americans has a part on those whose territory was taken over after the 1848 war with Mexico. The second part describes the problems the immigrants faced, including prejudice and discrimination, poverty, and poor working conditions, as well as how members of the group banded together in labor unions and ethnic organizations to confront those problems. The third part describes each group's adaptation and achievements—among them the gaining of political power (Irish Americans, Mexican Americans, Puerto Ricans) and the building of vibrant ethnic communities while becoming part of mainstream culture (a major theme of the books on Italian Americans, Korean Americans, and Vietnamese Americans). The volumes on Chinese Americans and Mexican Americans address the continuing problem of undocumented workers and their exploitation; *Koreans in America* discusses the growth of small, family-owned businesses and their relations with the communities they serve.

All seven books conclude with one-paragraph profiles of prominent individuals from each group. These are well balanced, with sports stars, entertainers, writers, scientists, and political figures represented. For each book, there is also a time line, a glossary, a bibliography, a list of ethnic organizations and web sites, source notes, and an index.

Jump at the Sun Fairy-tale Classics

Cinderella. New York: Hyperion/Jump at the Sun, 2004. 22 pp. Illus. by John Kurtz. ISBN 0-7868-0955-8, \$3.50 (pb).

Goldilocks and the Three Bears. New York: Hyperion/Jump at the Sun, 2004. 22 pp. Illus. by John Kurtz. ISBN 0-7868-0952-3, \$3.50 (pb).

Jack and the Beanstalk. New York: Hyperion/Jump at the

Sun, 2004. 22 pp. Illus. by John Kurtz. ISBN 0-7868-0954-X, \$3.50 (pb).

Little Red Riding Hood. New York: Hyperion/Jump at the Sun, 2004. 22 pp. Illus. by John Kurtz. ISBN 0-7868-0953-1, \$3.50 (pb).

This beautiful glossy paperback series with vivid color illustrations is written for children ages three through six and beginning readers. They are also ideal books for parents to read to their young children. The classic fairy tales, which follow the familiar story lines, have African Americans depicted in the illustrations as the main characters.

Introducing African Americans through illustrations only is a subtle way to reinforce to children that the color of a person's skin is not important. Children and adults might begin to think about the ways in which they visualize characters in these and other traditional stories for young people.

Jump at the Sun Holiday Classics

All Things Bright and Beautiful. New York: Hyperion/Jump at the Sun, 2004. 22 pp. Illus. by Rex Perry. ISBN 0-7868-0925-6, \$3.50 (pb).

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Kwanzaa! New York: Hyperion/Jump at the Sun, 2004. 22 pp. Illus. by Rex Perry. ISBN 0-7868-0924-8, \$3.50 (pb).

Over the River & through the Woods. New York: Hyperion/Jump at the Sun, 2004. 22 pp. Illus. by Rex Perry. ISBN 0-7868-0923-X, \$3.50 (pb).

'Twas the Night Before Christmas. New York: Hyperion/Jump at the Sun, 2004. 22 pp. Illus. by Rex Perry. ISBN 0-7868-0922-1, \$3.50 (pb).

These colorful and appealing glossy paperbacks are geared to the preschool and primary level. They are ideal for early readers and for reading aloud at home. The books cover holidays—Thanksgiving (*Over the River & Through the Woods*), Christmas, Kwanzaa, and spring (*All Things Bright and Beautiful*)—and the main characters are African Americans. *Over the River & Through the Woods* includes a multiracial cast of characters at the gathering, a positive message of integration at a social level.

Perry's illustrations feature bright colors that capture the spirit of the holidays and the attention of children. Youngsters will enjoy reading these books throughout the year.

Just the Facts Biographies

Benson, Michael. *Malcolm X*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 0-8225-2444-9, \$25.26.

Collins, David R. *Cesar Chavez*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2005.

112 pp. ISBN 0-8225-2248-9, \$25.26.

Krohn, Katherine. *Oprah Winfrey*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 0-8225-2472-4, \$25.26.

Schulman, Arlene. *Muhammad Ali*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 0-8225-2448-1, \$25.26.

Streissguth, Tom. *Jesse Owens*. Minneapolis: Lerner, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 0-8225-2256-X, \$25.26.

There are lessons for young students in third grade through middle school in this series. In *Jesse Owens*, the author tells the story of a gifted athlete who set world records and won four gold metals in Germany against all odds. Krohn's biography of Oprah Winfrey is about a woman who knew what she wanted and never lost sight. Schulman focuses on an athlete whose impact extended to the realms of religion and politics, while the biographies of Malcolm and Chavez present the lives of men who tried to improve the lot of African Americans and immigrant farm workers.

Students will gain knowledge about life from the honest accounts in these inspiring biographies. Although their childhoods are not the main focus, enough information is given to help readers understand the subjects' motivations.

Young people get a glimpse that glory can be short lived, as it was with Owens. Although a gifted and determined athlete, he struggled to find the same success off the track. He drifted from one occupation to another and was charged with tax evasion. He fought to overcome the discrimination, failure, and rejection he suffered in his life.

In contrast, Oprah seemed to always rise above whatever happened to her from the beginning, although she too suffered great tragedy in her childhood. She credits her success to her grandmother, who gave her a strong sense of self-worth as a young child.

The biography of Ali focuses on the famous boxer's personal transformation, including his conversion to Islam, his principled stand against the Vietnam War (which cost him his boxing title), and his humanitarian efforts despite the ravages of Parkinson's disease.

In different ways, Malcolm X and Cesar Chavez struggled for racial and economic justice. Benson explores Malcolm's Muslim beliefs as a catalyst for his leadership of the Black Nationalist movement; the book also describes his assassination and the tragedies that later befell his widow and descendants. Collins traces Chavez's commitment to non-violence as a means of broadening public awareness of and sympathy for the unionization efforts of California's mostly Latino and immigrant farm workers.

Black-and-white drawings and photos enhance the biographies. Also included in each volume are a glossary, source notes, a selected bibliography, web sites, and an index.

The Lucent Library of Conflict in the Middle East

Miller, Debra A. *The Arab-Israeli Conflict*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-491-2, \$28.70.

Miller, Debra A. *U.S. Involvement in the Middle East: Inciting Conflict*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-488-2, \$28.70.

Sharp, Anne Wallace. *The Palestinians*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-493-9, \$28.70.

Steward, Gail B. *Human Rights in the Middle East*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-488-2, \$28.70.

Yancey, Diane. *The Middle East: An Overview*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent Books, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-492-0, \$28.70.

Geared toward students in middle school and up, this series is designed to help readers understand various aspects of the region and the controversies surrounding it. Each one explores a different aspect of the Middle East conflict. After considering the information, students are encouraged to form their own ideas and opinions.

Each book is organized into five chapters dealing with subjects appropriate to the topic being examined, preceded by the same foreword and numerous informational and inspirational sidebars. Each chapter includes several previously published articles or article excerpts on that topic.

The Middle East: An Overview deals with the area that has the most conflict in the world. This author makes the argument that diversity is a principal factor. There are so many people in a small area with different customs, cultures, and objectives. Monarchies, dictatorships, democracies, and Islamic fundamentalists all live in the same space, as do modern pro-Western businessmen. Although the Muslims and Jews see each other as enemies, they have much in common.

Human Rights in the Middle East covers subjects such as the place of women, children's rights, and the treatment of ethnic and religious minorities. There are stories about amputating the right hand and left foot of a man because he robbed three people of \$500 outside a sports stadium and public beheadings in Saudi Arabia scheduled Friday afternoons after prayers. In a chapter on children's rights, an article entitled "A Land Run by Children" (written by Jonathan Silvers and first published in *Atlantic Monthly*) tells about a visit to rural Pakistan, just outside Lahore. When Silvers pulled into a gas station, three children between the ages of seven and twelve rushed out to service his car, wearing uniforms big enough for adults. The youngest cleaned Silvers's windshield with his dangling sleeves, while the other boys pumped gas with a rusted hand pump. When Silvers pulled away, he saw the boys sprint back to the garage to fix a diesel engine they had been rebuilding. Silver never saw any adults on the premises during the entire time he was there.

Students learn that sometimes human rights are violated

because of strict religious fundamentalism and sometimes because of a history of hostility between cultural and religious groups. A number of nations in the Middle East have been criticized for not following the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Violating the human rights of others includes the use of torture on prisoners, suppressing art and expression, the forced labor of children, the lack of voting rights for women, and people deprived of liberty for arbitrary reasons. *U.S. Involvement in the Middle East: Inciting Conflict* states that in the 1930s and 1940s, Americans began to take an interest in the Middle East for its oil. A historical account is given of how U.S. involvement has incited or exacerbated Middle East conflicts. In addition to the present war in Iraq, the book addresses the U.S. role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the long history of U.S. involvement in Iran. The foreword describes how a group of Islamic terrorists attacked a housing compound in Khobar, Saudi Arabia, in May 2004. Hundreds of petroleum industry workers lived in this compound, mostly Westerners. The terrorists raced through the compound, taking hostages and murdering those they considered infidels. A Muslim-American engineer's life was spared because he was Muslim; for the terrorists, his religion took priority over the fact that he was American.

The books have separate introductions. Each one contains several black-and-white photos, maps, a book list for further reading, Internet resources and recommended web site (including Middle East Activist and Middle East Peace Dialogue Network), an extensive list of credits for works used, numerous sidebars, notes, and an index. This series does not include a glossary.

Masters of Music: The World's Greatest Composers

Blankson, John. *The Life and Times of Duke Ellington*. Bear, Del.: Mitchell Lane, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 1-58415-248-6, \$19.95.

Blankson, John. *The Life and Times of Scott Joplin*. Bear, Del.: Mitchell Lane, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 1-58415-270-2, \$19.95.

Part of an excellent series for elementary and middle school students, these volumes feature inspiring stories of two gifted musicians and composers. The biographies of Ellington and Joplin are well researched and conveyed with warmth.

Joplin, the son of a slave, had musical talent as a young boy and his mother recognized it. She made sure he took classical music lessons. Today his influences are heard in blues, rock, and in the jazz of Duke Ellington. But during Joplin's lifetime, fellow composers did not recognize him as important. A sidebar describes how he was rediscovered in the United States in the early seventies, 66 years after his death. The director of *The Sting*, a 1973 film set in Chicago in the 1930s, needed period music; its director discovered Joplin's ragtime music. The film's soundtrack became a top seller and even won an Oscar.

Three years before Joplin's death, Ellington, only 14 at the time, heard a young man just a year older than he was play ragtime on the piano. That was the beginning of his love affair with music, and it never ended. Ellington brought jazz into nightclubs and homes.

This full-color, laminated, eye-catching series will entice students. Photographs, a glossary, suggestions for further reading, web addresses, and a complete index will assist with reports. Detailed full-page sidebars, a chronology, and a historical time line add value.

Modern Middle East Nations and Their Strategic Place in the World

Aykroyd, Clarissa. *Egypt*. Broomall, Pa.: Mason Crest, 2004. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59084-505-6, \$24.95.

Barnett, Tracy L. *Oman*. Broomall, Pa.: Mason Crest, 2004. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59084-517-X, \$24.95.

Carew-Miller, Anna. *Jordan*. Broomall, Pa.: Mason Crest, 2004. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59084-507-2, \$24.95.

Carew-Miller, Anna. *The Palestinians*. Broomall, Pa.: Mason Crest, 2004. 127 pp. ISBN 1-59084-513-7, \$24.95.

Carew-Miller, Anna. *Tunisia*. Broomall, Pa.: Mason Crest, 2004. 119 pp. ISBN 1-59084-518-8, \$24.95.

Cohen Cassanos, Lynda. *Morocco*. Broomall, Pa.: Mason Crest, 2004. 128 pp. ISBN 1-59084-515-3, \$24.95.

Garfinkle, Adam. *Israel*. Broomall, Pa.: Mason Crest, 2004. 136 pp. ISBN 1-59084-552-8, \$24.95.

Gelletly, Leeanne. *Somalia*. Broomall, Pa.: Mason Crest, 2004. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59084-520-X, \$24.95.

Habeeb, William Mark. *Iran*. Broomall, Pa.: Mason Crest, 2004. 128 pp. ISBN 1-59084-551-X, \$24.95.

Harmon, Daniel E. *Libya*. Broomall, Pa.: Mason Crest, 2004. 119 pp. ISBN 1-59084-512-9, \$24.95.

Harmon, Daniel E. *Turkey*. Broomall, Pa.: Mason Crest, 2004. 119 pp. ISBN 1-59084-524-2, \$24.95.

Keating, Susan Katz. *Saudi Arabia*. Broomall, Pa.: Mason Crest, 2004. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59084-509-9, \$24.95.

Marcovitz, Hal. *Kuwait*. Broomall, Pa.: Mason Crest, 2004. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59084-510-2, \$24.95.

Marcovitz, Hal. *Yemen*. Broomall, Pa.: Mason Crest, 2004. 120 pp. ISBN 1-59084-521-8, \$24.95.

McCoy, Lisa. *Bahrain*. Broomall, Pa.: Mason Crest, 2004. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59084-522-6, \$24.95.

McCoy, Lisa. *Facts & Figures About the Middle East*. Broomall, Pa.: Mason Crest, 2004. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59084-528-5, \$24.95.

McCoy, Lisa. *United Arab Emirates*. Broomall, Pa.: Mason Crest, 2004. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59084-514-5, \$24.95.

McDaniel, Jan. *Lebanon*. Broomall, Pa.: Mason Crest, 2004. 128 pp. ISBN 1-59084-511-0, \$24.95.

Monroe, Lisa. *Qatar*. Broomall, Pa.: Mason Crest, 2004. 111 pp. ISBN 1-59084-523-4, \$24.95.

Morrow, James. *Algeria*. Broomall, Pa.: Mason Crest, 2004. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59084-516-1, \$24.95.

Morrow, James. *Djibouti*. Broomall, Pa.: Mason Crest, 2004. 108 pp. ISBN 1-59084-525-0, \$24.95.

Morrow, James. *Mauritania*. Broomall, Pa.: Mason Crest, 2004. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59084-526-9, \$24.95.

Snyder, Gail. *Sudan*. Broomall, Pa.: Mason Crest, 2004. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59084-519-6, \$24.95.

Sullivan, Anne Marie. *Syria*. Broomall, Pa.: Mason Crest, 2004. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59084-506-4, \$24.95.

Thompson, Bill and Thompson, Dorcas. *Iraq*. Broomall, Pa.: Mason Crest, 2004. 132 pp. ISBN 1-59084-508-0, \$24.95.

This eye-catching series geared to middle and high school students is well organized, written from the adult point of view with some information about young people's lives. The series explores members of the Arab League and other Muslim nations of the Middle East and North Africa. Each book includes chapters on the country's place in the world, geography, history, economy, politics, religion, the people, daily life, and foreign relations. One of the longest books, *Israel*, has additional sections about society, security, and recent negotiations over the Palestinian question.

Most Americans do not know much about the Middle East, even though the earliest farming communities were established in Mesopotamia back in 9000 B.C. The purpose of this series is to educate American students about the region and to take away the mystery and stereotypes that many people have. The information in the introduction, repeated in all 25 books, will help students appreciate and understand a part of the world that is little known and understood, even though events there affect our security and economic well-being.

Each book cover has a color photograph of a feature unique to that country. For example, *Israel* has a photograph of the Wailing Wall, the western wall of what was once the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem. The cover of *The Palestinians* shows the "Dome of the Rock," a sacred mosque in Jerusalem. This mosque is the source of much friction

between the Palestinians and Israelis because it sits on land recognized as sacred by both Muslims and Jews.

As explained in the introduction, the editorial consultant to the series is the Foreign Policy Research Institute, one of the nation's oldest think tanks. The institute focuses on Gulf security, monitors the Arab-Israeli peace process, and sponsors an annual conference for teachers on the Middle East. The books approach controversies with an even hand for the most part, presenting both sides of the Israel-Palestinian conflict, for example. At the same time, the volumes lean toward support of American policy in the region, including the belief (though expressed in a guarded manner) that American intervention can lead to increasing democratization.

Facts & Figures About the Middle East is an overview volume and provides detailed information about the 24 nations covered in the individual entries. The difficulty of any series of this nature is that fast-changing events can make the volumes obsolete before they are published. Leaving aside the transitions in Iraq and increasing tensions between the United States and Syria over Syria's interference with its neighbors, and between the United States and Iran over Iran's nuclear program, the volume on Sudan contains nothing on the terrible genocide in Darfur, which has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives since 2003. With the exception of www.sudan.net, which contains articles from Reuters and the BBC, not even the more frequently updated web resources in *Sudan* would help, since they are official government sites or sites concerned with Nubian culture and the ancient history of the region.

Each volume includes a chronology, a glossary, an extensive reading list, a list of Internet resources, and an index.

Modern Nations of the World

Armstrong, David M. *Panama*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-119-0, \$28.70.

Delgado, Kevin. *Guatemala*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-113-1, \$28.70.

Dougherty, Terri. *Syria*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-246-4, \$28.70.

Lopata, Peg. *Colombia*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-110-7, \$28.70.

Miller, Debra A. *Kuwait*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-624-9, \$28.70.

Miller, Debra A. *United Arab Emirates*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-627-3, \$28.70.

Schaefer, David. *Chile*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-322-3, \$28.70.

Wild, Mary C. *Denmark*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent,

2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-112-3, \$28.70.

This series for students in upper elementary grades through high school gives an expansive and objective overview of the featured country. Chapters cover history, geography, culture, and politics. Even for countries recently in the news, such as Syria, the discussion is balanced thematically as well as politically; the country's long history, for instance, does not receive short shrift in either text or photos.

The introduction offers a useful overview for students doing research projects. Descriptive chapter headings are also useful for this purpose. Each volume contains quotations from primary and secondary sources, black-and-white and color photos, maps, sidebars with fast facts or anecdotes, a detailed chronology, statistics, web sites, a bibliography, and an index. Three of the eight volumes in this latest set (composed, in large part, of countries recently in the news) contain glossaries.

The New Americans

Zéphir, Flore. *The Haitian Americans*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2004. 181 pp. ISBN 0-313-32296-1.

The fourteenth volume in this series for high school students and general adult readers introduces a group of people who have come to the United States to escape poverty, oppression, and violence. The author begins with a history of Haiti from the colonial period and the successful slave revolt at the end of the eighteenth century (and the role of the American Revolution in inspiring it) to recent decades of dictatorship and turmoil. However, the chapter on the making of the Haitian nation also points out the country's rich artistic and cultural traditions (including artists and musical groups that have toured the United States).

Successive chapters describe the waves of Haitian immigration to the United States, from the reign of Papa Doc Duvalier to 2002, the fate of Haitians in their new country (with sections on the deportation of the "boat people" and the police brutality committed against Abner Louima in New York City), the communities where Haitians have settled, efforts to assimilate and to retain Haitian traditions, and prominent Haitian Americans. Includes biographical sketches of notable Haitian Americans today, an extensive bibliography, and an index.

Opposing Viewpoints Opposing Viewpoints in World History

Dudley, William, ed. *Islam: Opposing Viewpoints*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2005. 203 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2238-X, \$33.70 (cl); 0-7377-2239-8, \$22.45 (pb).

Karson, Jill, ed. *The Civil Rights Movement*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2005. 222 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2577-X, \$33.70 (cl); 0-7377-2578-8, \$22.45 (pb).

Wand, Kelly, ed. *Voodoo: Fact or Fiction*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2004. 144 pp. ISBN 0-7377-1314-3, \$29.95.

This series for students at the secondary level addresses not only contemporary controversies but also controversies throughout history, such as the American Revolution, slavery, or, in this case, the civil right movement. Like the related At Issue series, *Opposing Viewpoints* selects magazine articles and other primary and secondary sources presenting both sides of each question.

These three entries vary in quality. *Voodoo: Fact or Fiction* is a poor introduction to the topic. Voodoo appears in its most stereotyped form, as a religion focusing on the paranormal, devoid of historical or cultural context. Eight authors, four on each side, debate whether or not the power of voodoo is real. Most are writers on paranormal subjects such as zombies (a major preoccupation here) and vampires. Regardless of their claims, their discussions have little to do with the Haitian *vodun*, which developed in the eighteenth century as a form of resistance to slavery and extermination.

One might also question the idea of opposing viewpoints "for" and "against" Islam, the world's second largest religion. However, the volume features commentators, the majority of whom are Muslim, writing about the faith's relationship to Western values and democracy, whether or not Islam promotes terrorism or "holy war," the role of women in Islam, and the relative power of fundamentalist strains. It would have been useful to include articles distinguishing additional facets of Islam, such as Sunni and Shi'a beliefs. Some of the non-Muslim commentators are also rather simpleminded in their approach, reinforcing stereotypes and offering little by way of nuance or understanding.

The Civil Rights Movement differs from the other two volumes in presenting an event in history. Thus, many of the viewpoints are those of commentators of that era. The volume begins with the historic debates between Booker T. Washington and W. E. B. Du Bois, along with historians commenting on those two figures and their impact on the civil rights leaders of the 1960s. Karson offers numerous primary documents, including writings by those involved in the Brown case, political leaders such as President Kennedy, civil rights leaders Martin Luther King Jr. and James Farmer, and black nationalist Stokely Carmichael. A final section addresses whether national leaders or grassroots organizers played the greatest role in gaining long-overdue rights for black Americans. Of the three latest titles in the series, this is the strongest.

All three books include a bibliography and an index. *The Civil Rights Movement* features a chronology, and *Islam* provides a useful glossary and list of organizations. *Voodoo: Fact or Fiction* contains an epilogue entitled "Analyzing the Evidence" on how to verify claims of paranormal phenomena.

Profiles in History

Coddon, Karin. *Black Abolitionists*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven. 2004. 235 pp. ISBN 0-7377-1711-4, \$34.95.

Coddon, Karin. *Black Women Activists*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven. 2004. 220 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2313-0, \$34.95.

Karson, Jill. *Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven. 2004. 254 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2306-8, \$34.95.

Young, Mitchell. *Terrorist Leaders*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven. 2004. 224 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2649-0, \$34.95.

This series, designed for middle school and high school students, reports on the lives of people who influenced history through strategies of protest and sometimes violence. Three books focus on the struggle for black emancipation and civil rights in the United States, while the fourth deals with terrorists, including dictators such as Hitler as well as figures like Osama bin Laden. The individuals featured in these books were selected not because of how constructive or exemplary they may or may not have been, but because they made a strong impact as leaders.

The identical foreword in each book provides valuable background information for the series and details about how the volumes are organized. Each book starts with an essay that provides essential background material about the specific period or movement. The main body consists of shorter essays about important people of that period. Some essays are biographical, and others focus on specific actions, ideas, speeches, or followers.

The *Black Abolitionists* volume includes text written by and about influential black abolitionists who played key roles in the antislavery movement, such as Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman. Also included are African Americans who are not as well known.

Black Women Activists covers those who joined campaigns against racial injustice and sexism from the early nineteenth century to the end of the twentieth century. Notable figures of the present include Carol Moseley Braun, Toni Morrison, Oprah Winfrey, Halle Berry, Maxine Waters, and Marian Wright Edelman. Among the activists of the past depicted in this volume are Rosa Parks, Ida B. Wells Barnett (1862–1931), and Wells Barnett's daughter Alfreda M. Barnett Duster (1904–1973), who wrote the essay about her mother. Winnie Mandela is included as a black woman activist outside the United States.

Leaders of the Civil Rights Movement contains biographies of the men and women who took part in the civil rights movement of the sixties. They were selected for the series because of their vision and work that shaped history's social reform. Civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. graces the cover of

this book. Other well-known figures appearing in this volume are Malcolm X, Thurgood Marshall, Fannie Lou Hamer, and Roy Wilkins.

The author defines "terrorism" in *Terrorist Leaders* as "a political strategy that depends on violence, or the threat of violence, to intimidate a government or civilian population to achieve a political goal." Some of the most dangerous and successful terrorist leaders of all the groups are profiled here. The topics of the essays include Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda, dictators and state terror, Adolf Hitler's rise to power in Germany, and lone-wolf terrorists such as Ted Kaczynski.

Each book includes a bibliography, an appendix of documents for further research, a chronology of events, Internet sources, and an index.

Science and Society

Jackson, Jr., John P. and Weidman, Nadine M. *Race, Racism, and Science*. Santa Barbara, Calif.: ABC-CLIO, 2004. 403 pp. ISBN 1-85109-448-2, \$75.00.

This new series, written for high school and undergraduate students, bridges the gap between the sciences and the humanities. It examines the evolution of the biological, physical, and social sciences as they relate to religious beliefs and gender and racial issues. The meaning of "race" and the relationship between the scientific study of race and racism are explored.

The book includes a chronology of significant events in the history of science from the 1700s to the present, an annotated bibliography of key primary and secondary documents, extensive bibliographic essays, original eighteenth-century scientific papers, and a current social and historical research glossary. The two authors offer an overview of the history of racial concepts in European and American science, beginning with the use of these concepts to justify the slave trade in the eighteenth century. Additional topics include the "scientific" tools and methods utilized to highlight racial differences, and controversies over intelligence testing. The series, written by experts in the field, encourages students to think about important issues in our society. This volume is also an excellent research tool.

Slavery in American History

Eskridge, Ann E. *Slave Uprisings and Runaways: Fighting for Freedom and the Underground Railroad*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2004. 128 pp. ISBN 0-7660-2154-8, \$26.60.

This series, intended for sixth grade and up, provides a detailed overview of American slavery, which includes sending African slaves to the American colonies, the fight to abolish slavery, effects of slavery on the economy, and the larger political and cultural context in the young nation. Although in 1865 the thirteenth amendment outlawed slavery in the United States, the impact of slavery still continues today.

In this volume, the reader learns about slave uprisings and runaways, fighting for freedom, and the risks slaves took when they ran away. Eskridge describes how bloodhounds were used to pursue slaves attempting to escape. There is a discussion of the Underground Railroad and why some slaves chose to fight instead of running away.

A detailed historical introduction gives the background and history of slavery. There are several quality black-and-white drawings and photos, some maps, primary source documents that include excerpts from slave narratives and oral histories, a time line, chapter notes, a glossary, a list of books for further reading, selected Internet addresses, a list of historic sites, and an index.

Supreme Court Milestones

Gold, Susan Dudley. *Brown v. Board of Education: Separate But Equal*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark Books, 2004. 143 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1842-3, \$25.95.

Naden, Corinne J. and Blue, Rose. *Dred Scott: Person or Property?* Tarrytown, N.Y.: Marshall Cavendish/Benchmark Books, 2004. 128 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1841-5, \$25.95.

Only the most important cases are heard in the Supreme Court by nine justices. Their decisions impact people for decades and even longer. Five of the most significant court

cases ever are discussed in this series for middle/junior high school students. The importance of each case, past and present, is discussed using detailed information and highlights of the arguments of both sides.

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