

Editors' Shelf

editor's shelf

by Kathryn Mora

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.

NEW EDITIONS

Henderson, Gail E., ed. *The Social Medicine Reader: Social Cultural Contributions to Health, Difference and Inequality*. Durham, N.C.: Duke Univ. Press, 2005. 323 pp. ISBN 0-8223-3593-X, \$22.95 (pb).

This revised volume is the middle of three in the second edition of *The Social Medicine Reader*. It is a survey of issues facing today's health care providers, patients, and caregivers. The book is recommended for anyone who wants to better understand how biology and culture shape human health and the behavior of health professionals.

The book is divided into three parts, "Defining and Experiencing Difference," "Social Factors and Inequality," and "Social Relationships and Sickness." There are 17 new pieces in this volume and five that appeared in the first edition.

Each volume contains its own preface, introduction, and biographical information about the contributors and editors.

Hirschfeld, Al. *Hirschfeld's Harlem*. New York: Glen Young Books, 2005. 127 pp. ISBN 1-55783-675-2, \$34.95 (pb).

This expanded edition, excellent for middle school and high school students, was rereleased in a hardcover edition in 2004. However, the original edition was published in 1941 with the title *Harlem as Seen by Hirschfeld*

When students pick up this oversized volume they see a lively, animated Hirschfeld drawing on the front cover, which captures the vitality and strength of the people of Harlem. His subjects live in Harlem, near where Hirschfeld still resides, and they are performing, rehearsing, or simply living life.

The book is organized into six thematic sections. "Drawing on Harlem: Al Hirschfeld's Greatest Lines" features an essay by William Saroyan. "Brave New Black World: A Century of Harlem Renaissance" includes an essay by Gail Lumet Buckley. "The Harlem Portfolio" contains Hirschfeld's drawings of people of Harlem in action and commentaries by well-known African-American writers and performers such as Cicely Tyson and Lena Horne. "Story in Harlem Slang" is an essay and a glossary of Harlem slang. "Hirschfeld's Gallery of Drawings of African American Legends" offers images of people such as Ethel Waters, James Earl Jones, Lena Horne, Harry Belafonte, and Sidney Poitier accompanied by lively text describing the scene.

The book also includes an in-depth index.

McCaughan, Michael. *The Battle of Venezuela*. New York: Seven Stories Press, 2005. 239 pp. Series: Open Media Series. ISBN 1-58322-680-X, \$12.95. (pb).

This updated edition, excellent for college classes in history and sociology, offers a detailed analysis of the political forces in Venezuela today. Journalist McCaughan, who has worked throughout Latin America, captures the drama of Hugo Chavez's presidency. McCaughan documents the role of the country's powerful and shrinking middle class, the effects of Chavez's social programs funded by the country's oil exports, and the rise of the popular movement that brought him to power and continues to support him. On the whole, the author presents a sympathetic portrait of the leader who has captured the imagination of the entire region by standing up to the United States and the policies of George W. Bush.

This volume contains an introduction, a bibliography, notes, and an index.

Neruda, Pablo. *Spain in Our Hearts/España en el corazón*. New York: New Direction Books, 2005. 65 pp. ISBN 0-8112-1642-X, \$8.00 (pb).

This bilingual edition, translated by Donald D. Walsh, offers *Spain in Our Hearts* as it was originally published in Spanish. The collection first appeared as a part of a larger volume called *Residence on Earth/Residencia en la tierra* first published by New Directions in 1973 and later reissued in 2004, to coincide with the hundredth anniversary of the poet's birth. Republican soldiers first brought out Neruda's collection of poems about the Spanish Civil War during the war in an old monastery on the Eastern front near Gerona. Neruda later incorporated it into the third volume of his masterpiece *Residence on Earth*.

Neruda wrote the poems while serving as Chile's consul in Madrid in 1936. The assassination of his friend, Spanish poet

Federico García Lorca, and the horrors of the war inspired him. Some say this collection was his most politically passionate series of poems.

The preface, "My Book on Spain," is an excerpt from *Memoirs by Pablo Neruda*, published in 1977.

Rifkin, Ira. *Spiritual Perspectives on Globalization: Making Sense of Economic and Cultural Upheaval*. Woodstock, Vt.: Skylight Paths, 2005. 233 pp. ISBN 1-59473-045-8, \$16.99 (pb).

This informative book, first published in 2002, uses storytelling and interviews with knowledgeable individuals to present an unbiased overview of contemporary spiritual thinking. The message seems to be that information cultivates understanding and harmony between people of different religions. Rifkin believes that cultivating this atmosphere will make globalization easier. Also, in order to minimize the negative effects of globalization, the spiritual and the material needs of the world's majority must also be addressed, and it is imperative to have respect for each other's life, values, beliefs, and land.

Complete chapters are devoted to the major religions of the world and include Roman Catholicism, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism, Buddhism, Baha'i Faith, Protestantism, and indigenous earth-based religions.

A foreword, preface, discussion guide, and a list of interviews, along with notes, sources for further reading, and an index, are included. The foreword and discussion questions are new to this edition, which also contains updated sources.

REISSUES OF OUT-OF-PRINT WORKS

Brown, Frank London. *Trumbull Park*. Boston: Northeastern Univ. Press, 2005. 432 pp. Foreword by Mary Helen Washington. Series: The Northeastern Library of Black Literature. ISBN 1-55553-628-X, \$19.95 (pb).

Originally published by Regnery in 1959, Brown's novel portrays one of the first black families to integrate the Trumbull Park Housing Project in Chicago. Brown invents the Martin family—the husband (the first-person narrator), his wife, and two children—who face institutional discrimination, threats, and violence when they seek to move from their crumbling and unsafe tenement building to the government-built project.

As Washington, a professor of English at the University of Maryland, College Park, points out in her foreword, Brown and his family were among six families who integrated Trumbull Park, and the Martin family is based on his own. The book, which depicts racism in the North, was a bestseller among African-American readers.

Brown, Lloyd L. *Iron City*. Boston: Northeastern Univ. Press, 2005. 256 pp. Foreword by Alan Wald. Series: The Northeastern Library of Black Literature. ISBN 1-55553-206-3, \$19.95 (pb).

First published in 1951 by the left-wing publisher Masses and Mainstream and reissued in 1994 by Northeastern University Press, *Iron City* is one of the classics of political fiction in the United States, along with the works of Upton Sinclair, John Steinbeck, Richard Wright, and Howard Fast. Brown himself was a labor organizer and a close friend of Paul Robeson (his award-winning biography, *The Young Paul Robeson*, was published in 1997). In 1941 Brown was sent to prison for his organizing activities on behalf of the Communist Party.

Iron City was inspired by Brown's seven-month imprisonment and the people he met while behind bars. The main character, Lonnie James, has been falsely accused—as many African Americans were—of murdering a wealthy white man. In prison, Lonnie meets three black Communists who attempt to get him a new trial. Told in the third person, primarily from the points of view of Lonnie and his three fellow prisoners, Brown's novel addresses racism and class conflict in American society and its reflection behind prison walls. Alan Wald's foreword, which was written for the 1994 edition, provides biographical, historical, and literary context for the work but has not been updated to mention Brown's death in 2003.

Carrigan, Ana. *Salvador Witness: The Life and Calling of Jean Donovan*. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2005. 290 pp. ISBN 1-57075-604-X, \$18.00 (pb).

First published in 1984 by Simon and Schuster, *Salvador Witness* is a story about a woman who grew up in the affluent suburbs of Connecticut. At 25 years of age, Donovan decided to dedicate her life to the poor in El Salvador, where she was murdered by government troops.

Carrigan, a documentary filmmaker and journalist, coproduced and directed *Roses in December* (1982) about Jean Donovan, a film that was nominated for an Emmy. Donovan, a Catholic lay worker, and the three nuns killed in 1980 were also portrayed in the television movie *Choices of the Heart* (1983).

This volume includes a preface, a prologue, and an epilogue. Chapter Three, "The Road to Salvador," contains approximately two dozen pictures of Donovan as a young girl and in El Salvador.

Skora, Frank. *Until Justice Rolls Down: The Birmingham Church Bombing Case*. Tuscaloosa: Univ. of Alabama Press, 2005. 266 pp. ISBN 9-8173-5268-6, \$20.00 (pb).

This updated and revised book, first published in 1991, is a must read for high school students and up, as well as general readers who are interested in learning about the civil rights movement and its legal fallout decades later. Skora, a career journalist, tells the story about the death of four young girls killed in September 1963 during a bombing of a Birmingham church. At the time no one was even tried. It took more than a decade before any trials and convictions took place.

Skora captures the hatred of the Ku Klux Klan, the hope of the civil rights movement, the pain of the bombing, and the courtroom drama. New trials are included in the revised

and expanded edition. Also, there is a detailed account of the murder of 13-year-old Virgil Ware, shot in the head as he rode his bike the same Sunday the church was bombed.

This volume also includes a preface, a postscript, and an index.

Uchida, Yoshiko. *Samurai of Gold Hill*. Berkley, Calif.: Heyday Books, 2005. 119 pp. ISBN 1-59714-015-5, \$8.95 (pb).

Winner of the Commonwealth Club of California Medal when it was published by Scribner in 1972, *Samurai of Gold Hill* is based on a piece of California history, the Wakamatsu colony. This Japanese society, located near Sacramento, California, was founded by exiles from Japan.

This story is about Koichi, a twelve-year-old in the Wakamatsu colony who wants to be a samurai just like his father. However, in 1869, when their clan is defeated in a battle, Koichi has to move with his father to America to become farmers.

The book includes an author's note and a glossary. The new edition also contains black-and-white illustrations by Ati Forberg.

Yglesias, José. *The Kill Price*. Houston: Arte Publico Press, 2005. 155 pp. Series: Pioneers of U.S. Hispanic Literature. ISBN-10-1-55885-384-7, \$14.95 (pb).

This book, first published in 1976 by Bobbs-Merrill, is about

the end of a close friendship—because one of the friends is dying—and the redemption of a cynical protagonist. Yglesias paints the relationship of art and writer to trade and political beliefs; the novel also features the author's take on international politics, the arts scene, and personal relationships.

Yglesias, who died in 1995, was a renowned Cuban-American writer and a pioneer of Latino literature. He was also known as a cynic and a nonconformist, a unique voice in late-twentieth-century literature. He wrote many fiction books, including a collection of short stories, *The Guns in the Closet* (1996); a series of novels about working-class Cuban-American families and their intrigues in the Tampa suburb of Ybor City; and the political novel *Double Double*.

FIRST U.S. PUBLICATION OF BOOKS PUBLISHED ELSEWHERE IN ENGLISH

Blacklaws, Troy. *Karoo Boy*. New York: Harcourt, 2005. 208 pp. ISBN 0-15-603065-9, \$13.00 (pb).

Originally published in South Africa by Double Storey books in 2004, this tale, optioned for a film, is about a young boy brought up in Cape Town, South Africa, during the apartheid era. Douglas loses his twin brother in a freak accident and his whole world changes. His mother moves him to a backwater town in the Karoo region, much different from the world he had known as a city kid. The reader gets a

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peek into the life of a young, white South African during this time of enforced privilege for whites. Douglas quickly learns that his beloved South Africa is in the midst of a bitter race struggle as he watches his friend Moses beaten by locals for no reason or when he wanders into the wrong part of town.

Blacklaws, born in South Africa in 1965 and raised there, now lives in Germany.

Gill, A. A. *AA Gill is Away*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2005. 306 pp. ISBN 0-7432-7667-1, \$14.00 (pb).

This volume was originally published in Great Britain in 2002 by Cassell & Company. High school students, college students, and the general reader will enjoy the sharp-edged wit from this award-winning travel writer and television and restaurant critic for the *Sunday Times* in London. Gill interviews places as if they were a person. He listens to them, asks questions, observes—the way one would interview a politician or a pop star.

His subjects are different from those of other travel writers. First of all, he tells his travel stories in the first person, and his locations include the pornography studios of San Fernando Valley in California, the dying Aral Sea, and the famine-stricken Sudan. As a result, he takes readers on an unforgettable ride.

This volume includes a foreword and several profound (and in some cases provocative) black-and-white photos in each chapter.

Souelif, Ahdaf. *Mezzaterra: Fragments from the Common Ground*. New York: Anchor Books, 2005. 338 pp. ISBN 1-4000-9663-4, \$14.95 (pb).

This collection of essays on Arab identity, art, and politics was originally published in Great Britain by Bloomsbury Publishing, London in 2004. The 20 essays, written between 1981 and 2004, have been syndicated throughout the world. This volume includes an in-depth preface.

Souelif, a bestselling author and Booker Prize finalist, was born in Cairo and educated in Egypt and England. He is the author of several other books, which include two collections of short stories.

NEW VOLUMES IN SERIES

The American Religious Experience

Pinn, Anthony B. *The African American Religious Experience in America*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2006. 349 pp. ISBN 0-313-32585-5, \$55.00.

This volume, from an esteemed religious historian, is an excellent resource for high school and college students studying African-American religion, American religions, and American studies. In-depth discussions and historical information are provided. These include primary source documents that will give students first-person accounts of how religion is practiced in the African-American community today and in the past.

Students learn that African-American religions are not limited to black churches or aspects of Islamic religion but instead are more complex and consist of many faiths and practices, among them a variety of religions from Buddhism to Catholicism, Judaism to Vodou.

Included in this volume are some black-and-white photos, a glossary, a time line, a series of short biographies of important figures in the history of African-American religion, and a bibliography for further study.

American Social Movements

Tackach, James, ed. *The Abolitionist Movement*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven Press, 2005. 239 pp. 0-7377-1945-1, \$34.95.

This series (now with 13 books) offers students in upper elementary through high school the opportunity to examine major trends in America through the voices of the leaders and participants, in this case of the abolitionist movement. Included are the opinions of social historians and individuals affected by abolitionism. The volume begins with a historical overview. The abolitionist movement is revealed through 21 essays, speeches, book excerpts, and personal observations that are organized chronologically. Featured are prominent abolitionists, black and white, as well as noted biographers and historians from before and after the Civil War.

The book contains several research aids such as a chronology, a list of primary and secondary sources, an annotated table of contents, a comprehensive index, and an accessible bibliography. Although the cover of this book does contain a color photo of Abraham Lincoln riding a horse, there are few photos in the book, and they are all black-and-white.

Ancient Civilizations II

Reece, Katherine. *West African Kingdoms: Empires of Gold and Trade*. Vero Beach, Fla.: Rourke Publishing, 2006. 48 pp. ISBN 1-5915-508-2, \$20.95.

This series, written for fourth through eighth grades, brings ancient people to life. Readers will discover what these people thought about art, who they worshipped and went to war against, the food they liked, and much more. The layout of *West African Kingdoms*, with its oversize print, glossy pages, large photographs, and informative text, invites the young reader to explore the volume further.

A time line, full-color illustrations and photo captions, sidebars, up-to-date lists of print and electronic sources, and a glossary make this book an excellent choice for reports and research projects.

At Issue

Egendorf, Laura K., ed. *Islam in America*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2006. 112 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2728-4, \$19.95 (pb).

Einfeld, Jann, ed. *Is Islam a Religion of War or Peace?* Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 0-7377-3100-1, \$19.95 (pb).

Kallen, Stuart A., ed. *Indian Gaming*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2006. 112 pp. ISBN0-7377-2389-0, \$19.95 (pb).

McKain, Mark, ed. *Anti-Semitism*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN0-7377-2357-2, \$19.95 (pb).

Ojeda, Auriana, ed. *Is American Culture in Decline?* Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2724-1, \$19.95 (pb).

This anthology series for middle and high school students promotes critical thinking skills. A wide range of viewpoints is included on a single controversial issue. In-depth discussions are provided by leading advocates through unabridged articles on topics that touch on religion and the depth of America's moral fiber.

In *Is Islam a Religion of War or Peace?* prominent Muslims, Christians, Jews, and atheists debate whether the Muslim faith promotes war and violence and whether Islam will be the main sources of worldwide conflict in the twenty-first century. A companion volume, *Islam in America*, addresses many of the same issues but focuses more on the diverse her-

itages and experiences of American Muslims. Readers learn, for instance, that many immigrants to the United States from outside the Middle East are Muslims, as are some American-born blacks, and many immigrants from the Middle East practice other religions.

In the 16 essays of *Indian Gaming*, Native Americans, publishers, magazine and news editors, journalists, tribal government organizations, and others debate whether gaming benefits or harms Native Americans. The volume offers an objective look at Indian casinos, with articles on both sides of a variety of issues.

Readers of *Anti-Semitism* learn how anti-Semitism provoked the Holocaust and other attempts to exterminate Jews. They also learn how the state of Israel came to be and that anti-Semitism is on the rise today. Some of the commentators in *Anti-Semitism* examine the impact the establishment of the state of Israel has had on relations between Jews and non-Jews throughout the world.

Is American Culture in Decline? touches on a variety of issues related to religion and the "culture wars," among them the impact of immigration, the role of popular culture, changes in family structure, and controversies related to same-sex marriage.

All volumes include organizations to contact, extensive book and periodical bibliographies, and a comprehensive index. They offer excellent resources for research papers and reports for social studies classes.

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At Issue: International Politics

Head, Tom, ed. *What Is the State of Human Rights?* Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2006. 124 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2439-0, \$19.95 (pb).

This new volume in the now 45-book series is designed for students in middle and high school. It contains 14 articles written by people ranging from a Harvard University student to a seasoned journalist who is director of a marketing company called Landmark Communications to a professor of political science and international studies at University of California in Irvine. The essays address topics such as the value of the United Nations, the effect of U.S. anti-terrorism policy on human rights, and the role of sweatshops in the worldwide economy. This volume will enhance students' critical thinking as they learn that controversies about the Iraq war and international terrorism create differing opinions on the meaning of human rights.

Included are a list of organizations, a bibliography, and an in-depth index. Like the books in the general At Issue series, this one is an excellent resource for students preparing term papers for social studies classes.

The Author and You

Ada, Alma Flor. *Alma Flor Ada and You: Volume I.* Westport, Conn.: Greenwood/Libraries Unlimited, 2005. 152 pp. ISBN 1-59158-186-9, \$35.00.

This series was developed for teachers and librarians to give students from kindergarten through sixth grade a real-life visit with their favorite children's authors and illustrators. Written by the authors themselves, the series gives answers to questions teachers and students may have asked and to questions they never thought to ask.

This two-volume set on the highly prolific Cuban-American children's writer and translator includes, in the first volume, information about her family heritage; her life in Cuba, Europe, and America; and her process of creating original children's books. The second volume, to be published later, will contain her insights on retelling folktales and legends and working in both English and Spanish.

The series also includes a general foreword, a foreword specific to this volume, an introduction that includes suggestions for using this book, a bibliography of Ada's published works, and an index.

Children of the World

Castelain, Celine and Luitkus, Aurelien. *Asha: A Child of the Himalayas.* Farmington Hills, Mich.: Blackbirch Press, 2005. 24 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 1-4103-0286-5, \$21.20.

Gioanni, Alain. *Arafat: A Child of Tunisia.* Farmington Hills, Mich.: Blackbirch Press, 2005. 24 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 1-4103-0289-X, \$21.20.

Gioanni, Alain. *Ballel: A Child of Senegal.* Farmington Hills, Mich.: Blackbirch Press, 2005. 24 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 1-4103-0285-7, \$21.20.

Gioanni, Alain. *Thanassis: A Child of Greece.* Farmington Hills, Mich.: Blackbirch Press, 2005. 24 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 1-4103-0284-9, \$21.20.

Giraud, Herve. *Basha: A Hmong Child.* Farmington Hills, Mich.: Blackbirch Press, 2005. 24 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 1-4103-0547-3, \$21.20.

Giraud, Herve. *Kradji: A Child of Cambodia.* Farmington Hills, Mich.: Blackbirch Press, 2005. 24 pp. Illus. with photos by Jean-Charles Rey. ISBN 1-4103-0548-1, \$21.20.

Giraud, Herve. *Leila: A Tuareg Child.* Farmington Hills, Mich.: Blackbirch Press, 2005. 24 pp. Illus. with photos by Jean-Charles Rey. ISBN 1-4103-0545-7, \$21.20.

Giraud, Herve. *Tomasino: A Child of Peru.* Farmington Hills, Mich.: Blackbirch Press, 2005. 24 pp. Illus. with photos by Jean-Charles Rey. ISBN 1-4103-0546-5, \$21.20.

Goalec, Francois. *Frederico: A Child of Brazil.* Farmington Hills, Mich.: Blackbirch Press, 2005. 24 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 1-4103-0294-6, \$21.20.

Goalec, Francois. *Ituko: A Inuit Child.* Farmington Hills, Mich.: Blackbirch Press, 2005. 24 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 1-4103-0282-2, \$21.20.

Nicolotti, Muriel. *Kuntai: A Masai Child.* Farmington Hills, Mich.: Blackbirch Press, 2005. 24 pp. Illus. with photos. ISBN 1-4103-0290-3, \$21.20.

Rey, Jean-Charles. *Auinesh: A Child of the Ganges.* Farmington Hills, Mich.: Blackbirch Press, 2005. 24 pp. Illus. with photos by the author. ISBN 1-4103-0287-3, \$21.20.

Each volume of this new 12-book series, written for elementary age students, has a full-color picture on the cover. Inside there is simple, eye-catching text complementing the many large, full-color photos that capture the essence of each child's life in a particular country, region, or culture, highlighting school, family life, and leisure-time activities. The 11 chapters in each volume include facts and specifics about the featured country, details about the child displayed on the cover and his or her family, school life, businesses, and religion. Young readers will learn about children from other countries through this excellent series and begin to understand, appreciate, and respect each other's differences.

Ballel and Kradji are two of the young people depicted in the series. Ballel, a seven-year-old girl featured in *A Child of Senegal*, is shown in a photo sitting in front of a building with her mother. There is also a picture of Ballel's house made of bricks and cement with papaya trees in the courtyard. Her family has running water and electricity, but many

of her neighbors do not and have to go to the well for water. In contrast, Kradji's family of seven, shown in *A Child of Cambodia*, lives in a one-room home with no windows, and the structure is up on poles or piles. This protects them from floods and wild animals. They have no furniture, running water, or electricity, but they have plenty of food because Cambodia's soil is fertile. However, because Cambodia is one of the poorest countries in the world, many people die from diseases such as malaria. Two of Kradji's siblings died from this disease.

A two-page full-color map is displayed at the front of each volume.

Coming to America

Houle, Michelle E. *The Vietnamese*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2006. 191 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2769-1, \$34.95.

Landis, Jacquelyn. *The Cubans*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2005. 208 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2763-2, \$34.95.

Written with older elementary and middle school students in mind, the new volumes in the now eight-book series (not to be confused with the Barron's series by the same name) discusses the important part that Cubans and Vietnamese immigrants have played in the United States. Each anthology presents perspectives on the challenges these groups faced from the time they first arrived until the present.

Each title contains a chapter of biographies that showcase the accomplishments of the immigrants. For example, *The Vietnamese* presents Viet Dinh, who with his family were boat refugees to the United States. He was a fruit picker in Oregon and later a burger flipper in Orange County. Dinh went on to become a Harvard Law School graduate, law clerk for Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, and the first Vietnamese-American assistant attorney general of the United States.

In *The Cubans*, Landis shows how Desi Arnaz and his family of wealth and privilege had to leave Cuba (long before the revolution that brought Fidel Castro to power) and start all over again. He tells how Celia Cruz, the Queen of Salsa, who died in 2005, was forced to escape Castro's repressive regime and the challenges she faced restarting her career after she immigrated to the United States.

In each volume there is a foreword, a comprehensive introduction, a chronology, and a bibliography. Each book is an excellent research tool for secondary students.

Cultures of the World

Cheong-Lum, Roseline Ng and Jermyn, Leslie. *Haiti*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark/Marshall Cavendish, 2005. 144 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1968-3, \$25.95.

Foley, Erin and Jermyn, Leslie. *Dominican Republic*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark/Marshall Cavendish, 2005. 144 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1966-7, \$25.95.

Foley, Erin and Rafiz Hapipi. *El Salvador*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark/Marshall Cavendish, 2005. 144 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1967-5, \$25.95.

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Kott, Jennifer and Streiffert, Kristi. *Nicaragua*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark/Marshall Cavendish, 2005. 144 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1969-1, \$25.95.

Levy, Patricia and Bahrawi, Nazry. *Puerto Rico*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark/Marshall Cavendish, 2005. 144 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1970-5, \$25.95.

Sheehan, Sean and Jermyn, Leslie. *Cuba*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Benchmark/Marshall Cavendish, 2005. 144 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1965-9, \$25.95.

The six new volumes in this 142-book series, filled with large, full-color photos, are written for grades six and up. The chapters in each entry include geography, history, government, economy, environment, people, lifestyle, religion, language arts, leisure, festivals, and food (with recipes).

Students learn from reading *Dominican Republic* that this country and Haiti share the sugar-producing Caribbean island of Hispaniola. Today the Dominican Republic relies more on agricultural and industrial sectors than sugar. The country also has regular, orderly elections. However, it faces other challenges, such as resolving the social separation caused by racism and the unequal division of wealth.

Sheehan and Jermyn offer a more balanced portrait of Cuba than is available through government sources and some of the mainstream media. They point out that today's Cubans enjoy the "sun-drenched beaches" that attract millions of visitors and also have a high standard of education and health care for the developing world. However, they live in a controlled economy and are not free to oppose their government.

An introduction in each volume includes a detailed overview of the country's history, economy, and culture. Also featured are a large map, a time line, a glossary, a bibliography, and an index.

Daily Life of . . .

Roth, Norman. *Daily Life of the Jews in the Middle Ages*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2005. 228 pp. ISBN 0-313-32865-X, \$49.95.

This series is designed for high schoolers, undergraduates, and general readers who have little background in Jewish culture or Jews in the Middle Ages. This book is not a history of Jews in the medieval period but instead focuses on aspects of Jewish culture and daily life, such as how the Jews lived and what was important to them as individuals and communities during this period.

The book is organized into chapters that cover all aspects of everyday life, such as education, marriage and family life, the Jewish community, religious customs and observances, work, medicine, literature, the arts, the dangers of being Jewish, and the relationship between Jews and Gentiles.

Included are an in-depth introduction, a historical time line, black-and-white photos, a chronology, a glossary, a bibliography, and an index.

Debating Supreme Court Decisions

Streissguth, Tom. *Clay v. United States and How Muhammad Ali Fought the Draft*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2006. 112 pp. ISBN 0-7669-2393-1, \$26.60 (list), \$19.95 (schools and libraries).

This volume is designed for older elementary and middle school students. Streissguth explores conscientious objectors and traces people's opposition to war throughout history. He explores how Muhammad Ali's case got to the Supreme Court and how the decision was made. After reading this book, students will learn how to conduct a mock judicial proceeding, which will help them understand this specific case.

Included are questions for discussion, a chronology, chapter notes, a glossary, further reading and Internet addresses, and an index.

Discovering the Arts

Gleason, Katherine. *Native American Culture*. Vero Beach, Fla.: Rourke Publishing, 2006. 48 pp. ISBN 1-59515-522-8, \$29.93 (list), \$20.95 (schools and libraries).

Nichols, Catherine. *African American Culture*. Vero Beach, Fla.: Rourke Publishing, 2006. 48 pp. ISBN 1-59515-517-1, \$29.93 (list), \$20.95 (schools and libraries).

Toor, Atif. *Islamic Culture*. Vero Beach, Fla.: Rourke Publishing, 2006. 48 pp. ISBN 1-59515-521-X, \$29.93 (list); \$20.95 (schools and libraries).

This six-book series is designed for students in grades four through eight. Each volume is organized into chapters, with full-color photos and illustrations supporting the clear, concise text.

Through the works of art produced by the people covered in these books, including African American spirituals, Islamic calligraphy, and Native American masks, students will learn about different cultures. For Native Americans, creating beautiful things is an important part of their culture. Traditionally, their art objects are for everyday use rather than hanging on the wall. In *Islamic Culture* the student learns that textiles have played an important part in Islamic culture from the birth of the religion in the seventh century to the present. Years ago, many Islamic people were nomads. Their homes were tents, and furniture and floor coverings were pillows and carpets. Through the years, the carpet-making business grew because the rich in Europe wanted the beautiful floor coverings that were initially used for the floors of the nomads.

Each book in the series contains an introduction specific to the featured country, a time line, a glossary, further reading, and an index.

Families of the World

Families of Canada. Cincinnati, Ohio: Master Communications, 2005. DVD. 30 minutes. Color ISBN 1-888194-12-9, \$29.95.

This award-winning film series gives the young student a chance to learn about another culture through the eyes of children. Two children and their families give a tour through their countryside, cities, communities, schools, and homes, from breakfast to bedtime. Children gain insight into other cultures and have a chance to compare them with their own. They learn about the way of life of others—foods, celebrations, and how families interact.

Families of Canada introduces us to seven-year-old Hannah and eleven-year-old John. Hannah lives in the Atlantic province of Nova Scotia and John, on the outskirts of Toronto. Hannah takes two buses and a ferry to school and John studies a variety of subjects, including French, in his school.

The History of Nations

Streissguth, Thomas, ed. *Afghanistan*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2006. 220 pp. ISBN 0-7377-1862-5, \$34.95.

This now 13-book series for students in middle and high school tells the unique stories of nations through primary and secondary sources. Each anthology traces the country's history from its origins to its current status in the world, including invasions, revolutions, wars, and other social and political challenges. The 22 essays in *Afghanistan* deal with subjects such as "Early Conquests," "The Afghans Defeat the British Imperialists," "The Soviet Invasion of Afghanistan," "The Rise of the Taliban," "Kabul After the Taliban," and much more. Students will observe history as it is made, firsthand, in easy-to-understand terms.

The introduction tells of a remote, divided, and poor land and how this country has repeatedly been in the newspaper headlines for many years. In the 1980s, Afghan Muslims and warlords resisted an invasion by the Soviet Union, and in the 1990s Afghans were subject to strict Islamic rule under the Taliban. The Taliban harbored and trained the terrorist group al-Qaeda, leading to the September 11, 2001, attacks and the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan and overthrow of the Islamic extremist government.

Each volume contains a foreword, an in-depth introduction, a bibliography, a chronology, an annotated table of contents, and a comprehensive index. Students will find this series an excellent resource for international research.

History's Villains

Allen, John. *Pol Pot*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Blackbirch Press, 2006. 112 pp. ISBN 1-56711-901-8, \$27.45.

This series for elementary school students presents history's most influential villains and explores influences and experiences that shaped the featured subjects. These individuals hungry for power, wealth, fame, and glory have ruled countries and empires with violence and oppression

Pol Pot was a revolutionary and a dictator who led a rebel force to topple the Cambodian government in 1975. His four-year rule resulted in the deaths of more than 1.5 million Cambodians.

The image shows a graphic for CALICO. At the top, the word "CALICO" is written in large, white, serif capital letters. Below it, the text "Computer Assisted Language Instruction Consortium" is written vertically in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. To the right, the text "Leading international organization for language and technology" is written vertically in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the website "calico.org" is written in a large, white, lowercase, sans-serif font. The background is dark with a starry space theme and several glowing, translucent globes of varying sizes.

Included in this volume are a chronology, a glossary, source notes, a list of additional readings, and an index.

I Like Biographies! Bilingual

Feinstein, Stephen. *Lee sobre Abraham Lincoln/Read About Abraham Lincoln*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2005. 24 pp. ISBN 0-7660-2672-8, \$21.26 (list) \$15.95 (libraries and schools).

Feinstein, Stephen. *Lee sobre Cesar Chavez/Read About Cesar Chavez*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2005. 24 pp. ISBN 0-7660-2744-9, \$21.26 (list) \$15.95 (libraries and schools).

Feinstein, Stephen. *Lee sobre Geronimo/Read About Geronimo*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2005. 24 pp. ISBN 0-7660-2598-5, \$21.26 (list), \$15.95 (libraries and schools).

Feinstein, Stephen. *Lee sobre Martin Luther King, Jr./Read About Martin Luther King, Jr.* Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2006. 24 pp. ISBN 0-7660-2745-7, \$21.26 (list), \$15.95 (libraries and schools).

Feinstein, Stephen. *Lee sobre Sacagawea/Read About Sacagawea*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2006. 24 pp. ISBN 0-7660-2674-4, \$21.26 (list), \$15.95 (libraries and schools).

Feinstein, Stephen. *Lee sobre Tiger Woods/Read About Tiger Woods*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2006. 24 pp. ISBN 0-7660-2743-0, \$21.26 (list), \$15.95 (libraries and schools).

Weintraub, Aileen. *Lee sobre George Washington/Read About George Washington*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2005. 24 pp. ISBN 0-7660-2673-6, \$21.26 (list), \$15.95 (libraries and schools).

This new bilingual series about great Americans, past and present, is designed for students in first to third grades. Each book cover displays the image of the featured American with the title in Spanish in large type and English in smaller type.

Each volume includes a brief paragraph or two written in short, simple sentences in English and another below, in Spanish. On the opposite page is a full-color photo significant to the featured subject. For example, one photo in *Abraham Lincoln* includes the log cabin where he was born and another, a portrait of Lincoln without a beard. Children feature prominently in many of the photos, particularly in the biographies of Chavez, King, and Woods.

Young readers are immediately brought into the story, because the text includes facts interesting to the young reader, including the subject's parents, siblings, and friends. In *George Washington*, Weintraub writes that George "played games with his older brother, Lawrence." And in the *Tiger Woods* biography, Feinstein recounts how the 11-month-old climbed out of his high chair to play with his toy golf club. Young readers are exposed to the challenges these great

Americans faced and how those challenges shaped their lives. For example, Geronimo returned to camp and discovered that his mother, wife, and children had been killed. Distraught and angry, he led an attack against the Mexican soldiers responsible and defeated them. Chavez's experience as a migrant farmworker after his family lost their land, and King's experience of not being able to sit with his white friends on the bus or in the movie theater, guided both to struggle for justice.

Each of the eye-catching volumes includes color photos, a time line, a map, Internet addresses for further research, a glossary, and an index.

Immigrants in America

Conley, Kate A. *The Puerto Rican Americans*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-432-7, \$28.70.

Yancey, Diane. *The German Americans*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-56006-962-7, \$28.70.

This now 17-book series offers upper elementary through high school students a glimpse into the lives of immigrants who moved to the United States. Each title helps reveal why immigrants left their countries and relocated in America, challenges they faced during their trip, and adjustments to life in the United States. Young people who read these books should have more respect and empathy for immigrants rather than look at them with fear or as strangers.

In *The Puerto Rican Americans*, Conley tells how Congress granted U.S. citizenship to Puerto Ricans in 1917. Since then, thousands of Puerto Ricans have moved to the United States and established new communities on the mainland.

In the nineteenth century, millions of German immigrants arrived in the United States and made a dramatic impact on the country, socially and culturally. *The German Americans* explores why they left Germany, their experiences crossing the Atlantic, challenges faced on arrival in America, and contributions to their new land.

The numerous primary sources and quotations, comprehensive sidebars, maps, photos, source notes, and bibliographies make these books ideal for student research. Indexed.

Landmarks in Civil Rights History

The Editors of *Black Issues in Higher Education*. *The Unfinished Agenda of the Selma-Montgomery Voting Rights March*. Hoboken, N.J.: John Wiley, 2005. 224 pp. ISBN 0-471-71037-7, \$24.95.

The Editors of *Black Issues in Higher Education*. *The Unfinished Agenda of Brown v. Board of Education*. Hoboken, N.J.: John Wiley, 2005. 224 pp. ISBN 0-471-64926-0, \$24.95.

This new series, written for secondary and college students, offers a thorough, in-depth examination of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision and the Selma-Montgomery

Voting March and their repercussions for the present.

These two volumes are exceptional choices for research projects and for acquiring a deeper understanding the subjects. The editors of *Black Issues of Higher Education* have gathered a diverse group of experts to write essays. The essays are thought-provoking, enlightening, and at times controversial.

The Unfinished Agenda of the Selma-Montgomery Voting Rights March is a collection of essays by leading African-American scholars and commentators. They take an in-depth look at the events of 1965, examining not only the successes, but also the challenges that remain today. And fifty years ago, civil rights activists hailed the *Brown* decision as a victory, but now many wonder if it was. Through essays written by activists, scholars, jurists, educators, and theorists, *The Unfinished Agenda of Brown v. Board of Education* asks if anything really has changed since the landmark Supreme Court ruling that children of color would have “equal access to public education.”

Each volume includes “Reflections of One Who Was There,” a preface and introduction specific to the featured book, black-and-white photos, a time line, an afterword, transcripts, notes, biographies of contributors, and an index.

Latino Biography Library

Cruz, Barbara C. *Cesar Chavez: A Voice for Farmworkers*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2005. 128 pp. ISBN 0-7660-2489-X, \$31.93 (list); \$23.95 (schools and libraries).

Wooten, Sara McIntosh. *Frida Kahlo: Her Life in Paintings*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2005. 128 pp. ISBN 0-7660-2487-3, \$31.93 (list); \$23.95 (schools and libraries).

This exceptional new series, written for ages 11 and up, includes black-and-white photos, a chronology, chapter notes, informative sidebars, a reading list, Internet addresses, and an index.

Although many books have been written about Cesar Chavez, Cruz proves that there is always room for another one about this great leader. Her portrayal of Chavez is warm, factual, and inspiring. The many photos capture a strength and commitment that print alone cannot achieve. In the first chapter, “A Living Saint,” students are drawn into his struggle and how he created the United Farmworkers of America in order to improve living and working conditions for migrant farmworkers.

The author quotes a line Chavez gave in the 1984 speech in San Francisco attended by a number of famous Americans: “All my life, I have been driven by one dream, one goal, one vision: To overthrow a farm labor system in this nation which treats farmworkers as if they were not important human beings. . . .” Had Chavez not experienced those conditions firsthand after his family lost their land in the Great Depression, he might never have gone on to follow his passion, to make life better for farmworkers by starting a union. Students learn through Chavez’s example that hard work, dedication, and commitment propel positive change.

Kahlo was another courageous and outstanding individual. She painted self-portraits, often during the most challenging times in her life, such as after she was badly injured in a bus accident when she was 18 years old. Seeking “to express her emotions and forget her troubles,” she transformed her life into art, creating a collection of images that deeply touch people because they are her truth and motivated by real feeling. Today Kahlo’s work is known worldwide.

Negative circumstances had a profound effect on both Kahlo and Chavez and led them both to greatness. These two individuals will inspire young readers and could serve as positive role models for their lives.

Library of Black History

Currie, Stephen. *A Peculiar Institution: Slavery in the Plantation South*. Farmington, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-704-0, \$28.70.

Currie, Stephen. *The Quest for Freedom: The Abolitionist Movement*. Farmington, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-703-2, \$28.70.

Kallen, Stuart A. *A History of Free Blacks in America*. Farmington, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-776-8, \$28.70.

Koopmans, Andy. *The Harlem Renaissance*. Farmington, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-702-4, \$28.70.

Sharp, Anne Wallace. *A Dream Deferred: The Jim Crow Era*. Farmington, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-700-8, \$28.70.

Uschan, Michael V. *Forty Years of Medical Racism: The Tuskegee Experiments*. Farmington, Mich.: Lucent, 2006. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-486-6, \$28.70.

Woog, Adam. *The Fight Renewed: The Civil Rights Movement*. Farmington, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-701-6, \$28.70.

This new series designed for middle grades examines significant events in African-American history in their historical context in order to help readers understand the connection between black history and its profound effect on the United States. Each volume contains captioned black-and-white photographs and drawings.

The series focuses both on broad movements like the civil rights movement of the middle twentieth century, as well as on more narrowly defined events such as the Tuskegee Experiments and the Harlem Renaissance.

A Dream Deferred: The Jim Crow Era covers a longer time period. It is organized chronologically from Reconstruction through the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. This volume focuses on the devastating and demoralizing effect of Jim Crow laws on the black community and the activism that became the birth of the civil rights movement. Also

covering longer time spans are the three titles on African-American history before the Civil War. *A Peculiar Institution* and *A History of Free Blacks in America* explore, respectively, the lives of those who were enslaved and those who were either born into or gained their freedom (mostly in the North, but sometimes in the South as well). *The Quest for Freedom* focuses on the contributions of both Black and White abolitionists.

In addition to the photos, each volume features maps, charts and graphs; personal narratives; a glossary; a chronology; and bibliographies that are excellent for in-depth research.

Magill's Choice

Magill's Choice: Notable Latino Writers. Hackensack, N.J.: Salem Press, 2005. 3 volumes; 1,200 pp. ISBN 1-58765-243-9, \$207.00.

This series enables students, librarians, and teachers to access comprehensive overviews of great Hispanic (though called Latino in this source) novelists, poets, playwrights, and short-story writers of the Western Hemisphere. Only a small percentage of these writers were born in the United States, but those not writing in English have had works translated into and published in English. Biographies include the author's literary career as well as ready-reference listings of their major works in all genres.

There are 122 signed essays. Each has a quotation from the author and a photograph or portrait, the author's nationality or ethnicity, and major genre. Dates of birth and death are listed, as well as the author's works, in chronological order by genre: Foreign-language (original) title first if appropriate, then date of publication, then English title-in-publication and its date.

Each essay has a boxed sidebar that annotates one of the author's famous works. These three volumes can be used as a guide for students—a starting place for information for a term paper or a research project. The several useful appendices include Latino and Latin American Drama, Latino Long Fiction, Latino Poetry, Latin American Fiction, and Chronological List of Authors (authors by birth year).

The Medieval and Early Modern World

Bingham, Marjorie Wall. *An Age of Empires: 1200-1750.* New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 2005. 173 pp. ISBN 0-19-517839-4, \$32.95.

Des Forges, Roger V. and Major, John S. *The Asian World: 600-1500.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2005. 173 pp. ISBN 0-19-517843-2, \$32.95.

Pouwels, Randall L. *The African & Middle Eastern World: 600-1500.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2005. 173 pp. ISBN 0-19-517673-1, \$32.95.

This series is designed for students in middle and high

school, homeschoolers, and general readers interested in the history of the Middle Ages. Teaching guides and student study guides are available for each book. The past is brought alive with accounts of actual people and full-color illustrations and photos. Maps show students where people lived and how they traveled throughout the world.

Authors Des Forges and Major of *The Asian World* relate the history and culture of China, India, Korea, and Japan and demonstrate how the cultures interacted with each other.

In *An Age of Empires* Bingham reveals a story of extremes. Some of the most colorful and ruthless figures in all of history lived in that era, such as Genghis Khan, Ivan the Terrible, and Babur the Tiger. The author, founder of the Organization of History Teachers and the National Council for History Education, brings their stories to life.

The African & Middle Eastern World explores how and why these two regions have Islam, climates, and nomadic ways of life in common.

The volumes contain primary sources, a glossary, time line, further reading, web sites, and an index. A unique feature, the "Cast of Characters," helps clarify the players and their roles in history.

The Middle East

Downing, David. *The Making of the Middle East.* Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 56 pp. ISBN 1-4109-1620-0, \$32.86 (list); \$23.00 (schools and libraries).

King, John. *Oil in the Middle East.* Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 56 pp. ISBN 1-4109-1624-3, \$32.86 (list); \$23.00 (schools and libraries).

King, John. *Iran and the Islamic Revolution.* Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 56 pp. ISBN 1-4109-1623-5, \$32.86 (list); \$23.00 (schools and libraries).

King, John. *Iraq Then and Now.* Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 56 pp. ISBN 1-4109-1622-7, \$32.86 (list); \$23.00 (schools and libraries).

King, John. *Israel and Palestine.* Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 56 pp. ISBN 1-4109-1621-9, \$32.86 (list) \$23.00 (schools and libraries).

This series will help students at the middle school level better understand the reasons for difficulties in the Middle East and why this region once again is the scene of conflicts and disturbance.

Each volume is divided into short two-page chapters with bold headings. *The Making of the Middle East* deals with "A Region in Turmoil," "Ancient Times," "The Arab Empire," "Decline and Fall of the Arab Empire," "The Birth of Israel," and the "Terrorist Threat." It offers an overview, while the other volumes focus on specific countries or issues such as oil.

In *Israel and Palestine*, the opening chapter is "Death at the Crossroads." There is a black-and-white picture of a

Palestinian boy and his father cowering against a wall in Gaza after they came under fire from Israeli soldiers defending the intersection they attempted to cross. The boy died, and Israel made an official apology for his death. The author notes that violence against Israeli children is also prevalent because of suicide bombers. Other chapters address the history of the Arab-Jewish conflict even before Israel's establishment, the birth of the state of Israel, and the situation facing Palestinian refugees.

Iraq Then and Now begins with the capture of former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein in December 2003. Other topics include the ancient Babylonian civilizations, the arrival of Islam, Iraq under British rule, and the Iran-Iraq War. Other titles in the series also combine historical information (including information about the theological differences between the Sunnis and Shi'ites) with current events.

Each volume contains a glossary, time lines, an index, "Facts and Figures," "Who's Who?" and "Find Out More."

Nations in Conflict

Bardhan-Quallen Sudipta. *Iran*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Blackbirch Press, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 1-4103-0533-3, \$23.70.

Hughes, Chris. *Colombia*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Black-birch Press, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN-1-4103-0554-6, \$23.70.

Hughes, Chris. *Sudan*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Blackbirch Press, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN-1-4103-0553-8, \$23.70.

This series is designed for elementary and middle school students. The books, written in a straightforward manner, deal with the conflicts and challenges facing each of the featured countries today. Instead of sugarcoating the facts, this series gives the real story in an easy-to-understand format. The volume on Iran discusses how this country continues to endure change and revolution, mostly stemming from the conflict between religious fundamentalism and the modern world. Readers of *Colombia* learn that this country is one of the most violent and dangerous in the world. Illegal drug organizations have their own armies to protect them. In *Sudan*, the government is accused of aiding international terrorists, including Osama bin Laden, and committing genocide against minority religious and ethnic groups.

Each volume contains an introduction specific to the featured title, three chapters dealing with the history and specific aspects of the conflict, important dates, further information, source quotations, and an index.

Nations in Transition

Sinkler, Adrian. *Iraq*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2005. 128 pp. ISBN 0-7377-3085-4, \$28.70.

This series, now up to four books, is designed to help young students better understand nations undergoing major political or social changes. Each book in the series is written to emphasize historical events that led to or occurred during the transition and major events in the year since.

Sinkler, a doctoral student in the political science department at the University of Washington-Seattle specializes in comparative politics and international affairs. The book includes a foreword, an introduction, and six chapters: The Making of Iraq; Political Turmoil and the Emergence of the Baath Party in Iraq; The Shiite and Kurdish Opposition Movements in Iraq; Iraq's Changing Role in International Politics; The Social and Economic Crisis in Contemporary Iraq; and Iraq's Prospects for a Democratic Transition.

The book includes many primary and secondary source quotations, sidebars of personalities and topics relevant to each chapter, notes, a chronology, a list for fur-



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Native Peoples of the Americas

Sandstrom, Alan R. and García Valencia, E. Hugo, eds. *Native Peoples of the Gulf Coast of Mexico*. Tucson: Univ. of Arizona Press, 2005. 336 pp. ISBN 0-8165-2411-4, \$50.00.

This multivolume series of essay collections written by anthropologists, historians, and native people provides original research for use by students in high school through college and the general reader. Each volume contains an overview of the archaeology and/or ethnohistory of the region and time.

Here, the essays discuss aspects of the pre-Hispanic period of the Gulf Coast, once dismissed by researchers as less important to the Mesoamerican heartland. In understandable language, the book shows that the people of this region created a culture distinct from that of other areas of Mexico.

This volume also includes a series foreword, notes, a glossary, references cited, biographies of the contributors, and an index.

The New Americans

Cordova, Carlos B., *The Salvadoran Americans*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2005. 178 pp. ISBN 0-313-32306-2, \$45.00.

Kayyali, Randa A. *The Arab Americans*. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood, 2006. 178 pp. ISBN 0-313-33219-3, \$45.00.

These titles offer high school and college students an in-depth look at Salvadoran Americans and Arab Americans, from their history in El Salvador and the Middle East and North Africa, respectively, to their adjustment issues and communities in the United States today.

In addition to El Salvador's recent civil war, natural disasters and economic problems have driven citizens of this Central American country to the United States. Cordova examines Salvadoran immigration in the context of other immigrations from this region in the late twentieth century. Following the historical sections, he addresses the political mobilization of Salvadoran Americans, their economic prospects and educational attainment, and the problem of youth gangs.

Arabs have been coming to the United States for more than a century. Kayyali describes the various waves beginning with Syrian, Lebanese, and Palestinian Christians in the 1880s. Other chapters describe religious life for both Christians and Muslims, settlement patterns, family life (including the role of women), the effect of various international conflicts (including the 1979 Iranian Revolution, September 11, and the two Gulf Wars) on Arab-American identity, and notable Arab Americans.

Each book contains a series foreword, black-and-white photos, a glossary, statistical tables, a bibliography, and an

index. Also included are one-paragraph biographies of well-known Salvadoran Americans and Arab Americans and tables with immigration to the United States from each group (Arab Americans listed by specific country of birth) according to the decennial census.

Opposing Viewpoints

Egendorf, Laura K., ed. *Urban America*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2005. 223 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2968-6, \$23.70 (pb).

Torr, James D., ed. *Race Relations*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2005. 223 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2956-2, \$23.70 (pb).

Williams, Mary E., ed. *Religion in America*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2005. 223 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2958-9, \$23.70 (pb).

This series on current issues, appropriate for middle school through high school, is dedicated to freedom of expression, the first amendment of the United States Constitution. The books promote the notion that people acquire wisdom when they hear a variety of opinions and study all sides.

The volumes are organized by chapters in the form of a question. For example, the first chapter of *Urban America* reads, "What Problems Is Urban America Facing?" Following a preface, several essays, written by experts, policy makers, and concerned citizens join up-to-date and fully documented articles and speeches, long book excerpts, and sometime cartoons and boxed quotations to explore all sides of the question. Topics in *Urban America* include the role of government in helping urban areas and their residents and the realities facing urban youth. *Race Relations* addresses both African Americans and Latinos and how government can (or cannot) improve race relations. *Religion in America* features articles on religion's effect on society, ways to accommodate religious freedom and differences, and the values held by religious Americans.

Each volume in this series contains a section, "Why Consider Opposing Viewpoints?" an introduction, a periodical bibliography, a list of questions for further discussion, organizations to contact, a bibliography, and an index.

Opposing Viewpoints (At Issue In History)

Boaz, John, ed. *The U.S. Attack on Afghanistan*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2005. 142 pp. ISBN 0-7377-1983-4, \$29.95.

Brenner, Samuel, ed. *Vietnam War Crimes*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2006. 141 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2689-X, \$29.95.

Howell, Maria L. ed. *The Emancipation Proclamation*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2006. 78 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2276-2, \$29.95.

This series on issues in America's past provides students in middle and high school a chance to develop their critical thinking skills. Students can learn about controversial historical events through reading primary and secondary source articles by eyewitnesses, contemporary observers, and historians. Here, different opinions are offered regarding the U.S. attack on Afghanistan, Vietnam War crimes, and the Emancipation Proclamation.

Each book contains from 11 to 16 essays with a variety of perspectives. One example in *The U.S. Attack on Afghanistan* is a speech by President George W. Bush entitled "America Must Attack Afghanistan to Fight Terrorism." A peace activist takes the other side, and additional topics include the nation's reconstruction, the role of women, and the place of Islam in the new government. *Vietnam War Crimes* addresses atrocities committed by U.S. soldiers along with North Vietnam's treatment of American prisoners of war. In *The Emancipation Proclamation*, historians debate whether the proclamation ended slavery (interpretations of the document itself), the role of the Emancipation Proclamation in the conduct of the Civil War, and its long-term impact for blacks in the South.

Each volume includes an introductory essay with background for each topic, a chronology, and a bibliography for further research.

Positions Series

Street, Paul. *Segregated Schools*. New York: Routledge, 2005. 222 pp. ISBN 0-415-95116-X, \$18.95 (pb)

This series is about issues related to education, politics, and culture. It provides undergraduates and graduate school students an introduction to their chosen disciplines or professions.

Street, vice president for research and planning at the Chicago Urban League between 2000 and 2005, argues that little has changed in America's schools since the Supreme Court outlawed racial segregation in public education. Street examines the current state of school funding, disparities in teacher quality, student-teacher ratios, and much more. He is critical of "No Child Left Behind" and the school vouchers initiative. Instead of providing easy answers, he offers a model for how racial justice can be achieved.

This book is an excellent research source for reports about the state of schools in America. There is statistical information, discussions of desegregation topics, and extensive notes with references for further study, along with an in-depth index.

Religion and Religious Movements

Hay, Jeff, ed. *Buddhism*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2005. 238 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2563-X, \$34.95.

Hay, Jeff, ed. *Hinduism*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2005. 223 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2569-9, \$34.95.

Ruggiero, Adrian, ed. *Confucianism*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2005. 239 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2567-2, \$34.95.

Ruggiero, Adrian, ed. *Judaism*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2005. 224 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2573-7, \$34.95.

Young, Mitchell. *Islam*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2005. 237 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2571-0, \$34.95.

Zacharias, Gary, ed. *Christianity*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven, 2005. 223 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2565-6, \$34.95.

This now 11-book series provides middle and high school students with information about world religions. Each of these six titles focuses on one religion and gives information about its fundamental belief system, challenges and changes (and in some cases scandals), important religious works, and prominent people. Articles written by a variety of people provide students with different theological and historical viewpoints.

A unique inclusion is the volume *Confucianism*, named after the Chinese scholar and teacher Confucius (ca. 551—479 B.C.), which many similar series do not include among the religions they cover. Confucianism is more a way of life and emphasizes ethical and moral behavior in everyday life. Later books in the series will cover faiths with fewer adherents, such as Shinto.

Each volume contains a table of contents, a general series foreword that draws from the quote by Gandhi, "Religion is not what is grasped by the brain, but a heart grasp," and an introduction specific to the featured title.

While the small, slender books have full-color images pertinent to the specific religion on each cover, few illustrations and photos are found inside. However, there are numerous informational sidebars and maps, as well as a glossary, a chronology, a list of books and Internet sources for further research, and an index.

Religions of the World

Huffman, Nancy. *Sikhism*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 128 pp. ISBN 1-59018-453-X, \$28.70.

Nardo, Don. *Catholicism*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Lucent, 2005. 112 pp. ISBN 1-59018-632-X, \$28.70.

This series, appropriate for middle and high school students, explores major religions of the world, their origins, and changes throughout the years, along with today's practices and beliefs. Each faith includes quotes from religious scholars and practitioners.

The volumes have a full-color photo on the cover that provides a glimpse into the featured religion; there are a few black-and-white photos throughout. The first chapter explores the origins of the religion; the last deals with the challenges faced by the faith today.

Sikhism offers an easy-to-understand overview that shows the similarities and differences between Sikhs, Hindus, and Muslims, a good tool for student reports and research. There are about a billion Catholics in the world, according to *Catholicism*. They are the largest single Christian denomination, and most live in North and South America and Europe.

All volumes in the series include primary and secondary

source quotations, annotated bibliographies, and a detailed index. Also included are a general series foreword, an introduction specific to the featured religion, and notes.

Skylight Illuminations

Pritchard, Evan T. ret. *Native American Stories of the Sacred*. Woodstock, Vt.: Skylight Paths, 2005. 202 pp. ISBN 1-59473-112-8, \$16.99 (pb).

Native American stories of the sacred are teaching tales from the tribes across North America. They teach about Creation, nature, the sacredness of life, and how each human being is an integral part of all that is holy. The book is divided into ten chapters; each chapter contains several Native American stories that transcend cultural boundaries with a universal message. The chapters include "Creation Stories," "The Wager for the World," "The Sacred Hero," and "The Spiritual Journey." Readers—from the elementary grades through adults—will be enriched and inspired by these teaching stories, regardless of their own spiritual heritage.

This volume features Pritchard's annotations to the stories, which explain their cultural context and significance. Included are a preface, an introduction, notes, and acknowledgments.

Star Files

Fox, Dan. *Jackie Chan*. Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 1-4109-1659-6, \$31.43 (list); \$22.00 (library).

Hodgson, Nicola. *Beyonce Knowles*. Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 1-4109-1660-X, \$31.43 (list); \$22.00 (library).

Itzgerald, Brian. *Andre Benjamin*. Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 1-4109-1663-4, \$31.43 (list); \$22.00 (library).

Stewart, Mark. *LeBron James*. Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 1-4109-1661-8, \$31.43 (list); \$22.00 (library).

Whitcombe, Dan. *Usher*. Chicago: Raintree, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 1-4109-1665-0, \$31.43 (list); \$22.00 (library).

This series is designed for reluctant readers in grades six through nine. Students who want the inside scoop on their favorite stars will learn how they live, their highs and lows, the challenges they have faced, and what makes them special.

The stars' successes and ability to work through their challenges will inspire young students to follow their dreams and not give up. Most of the subjects (Beyonce, Andre Benjamin—aka Andre 3000 of the hip-hop band OutKast—and Usher) are musicians, while Chan is a popular actor in action movies, and James is a basketball star. Their African-American, Asian-American, and/or multiracial backgrounds are discussed as well.

Full-color photos are included, as are direct quotes from

the stars and the people close to them. There are also a glossary, an index, and lists of books, recordings, and online sources where readers can learn more.

Sunscreen

Lanchon, Anne. *All About Adoption*. New York: Abrams/Amulet, 2006. 104 pp. Illus. by Monike Czarnecki. ISBN 0-8109-9227-2, \$9.95 (pb).

This now 11-book series helps teenagers find answers to their questions about parents getting divorced, sex, drugs, losing weight, and other topics. *All About Adoption* is excellent for teenagers who were adopted and want to find out where they came from or have questions they need answered. Among the subjects discussed are interracial and international adoptions.

Each chapter uses colors, cartoons, and lively informative text to help the adopted teenager understand her or his feelings. This volume includes web sites for research, a list of books for further reading, and an index.

Supreme Court Milestones

Gold, Susan Dudley. *Korematsu v. United States: Japanese-American Internment*. New York: Marshall Cavendish. 160 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1943-8, \$25.95.

Steffoff, Rebecca. *The Bakke Case: Challenging Affirmative Action*. New York: Marshall Cavendish. 144 pp. ISBN 0-7614-1930-X, \$25.95.

This series for middle and high school students features short, reader-friendly chapters. There are many full-color and black-and-white photos. Young readers will be drawn to learn about and better understand the sometimes complicated subjects that could be tedious to read about and hard to comprehend. Background information is presented throughout the volumes in an eye-appealing format, with white font against a rich red background and important text highlighted in an appealing deep blue.

The front cover of *Korematsu v. United States: Japanese-American Internment* shows a dismal picture of Manzanar Internment Camp in California, the first of ten internment camps, taken in 1942. The stark black-and-white photo of the scene establishes the seriousness of the book's subject. All the photos of subjects and places in the book are also black-and-white, in dramatic contrast to the red-and-blue full-page backgrounds. This volume has a volume-specific introduction entitled, "Legalization of Racism."

In contrast, *The Bakke Case: Challenging Affirmative Action* includes many full-color photos and illustrations. Steffoff opens the book by describing a crowd in front of the Supreme Court, demonstrating for and against affirmative action. The case was one of alleged "reverse discrimination," in which Alan Bakke claimed that the University of California admission policies discriminated against him because he was white.

The author takes the student on a step-by-step process in six chapters, which include a definition of reverse discrimination, the history of affirmative action, the arguments in the case, the Court's decision, and the aftermath.

Each volume also includes full-page sidebars, a time line, notes, web sites for further information, a bibliography, and an index.

Turning Points in World History

Margulies, Phillip, ed. *The Creation of Israel*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven Press, 2005. 268 pp. ISBN 0-7377-1717-3, \$34.95.

Margulies, Phillip, ed. *The Rise of Islamic Fundamentalism*. Farmington Hills, Mich.: Greenhaven Press, 2005. 268 pp. ISBN 0-7377-2985-3, \$34.95.

This series is comprised of collections of articles, reprinted from a variety of primary, scholarly, and general sources, that examine great historical events or the emergence of notable political, social, military and/or scientific trends. While there is a lot of material in each volume, the annotations and summaries of each article in the table of contents will assist student researchers in finding information appropriate to their needs.

The Rise of Islamic Fundamentalism documents the theological, political, and social foundations of Islamic fundamentalism, its core beliefs, and the ways in which it manifests itself in the world today. It offers a useful and even-handed overview.

The Creation of Israel traces the events that led to the birth of the Jewish state, from the Dreyfus Affair in France and Theodore Herzl's founding of the Zionist movement, through the Holocaust and wars with neighboring Arab nations, to the present. Later articles address the impact of Israel's creation on the Palestinian Arabs, many of whom became refugees, and the conflicts that persist today.

Each volume is organized into four chapters with broad headings, and within each chapter are several essays. There is also a general foreword, a specific introduction for each volume, discussion questions, a chronology, a list of sources for further reading, and an index. There is also an appendix featuring key primary documents, which provide voices of the time.

Understanding Contemporary American Literature

Kolin, Philip C. *Understanding Adrienne Kennedy*. Columbia: Univ. of South Carolina Press, 2005. 192 pp. ISBN 1-57003-579-2, \$34.95.

The volumes of this series have been designed as guides or companions for students in high school and college as well as nonacademic readers. This critical study of Kennedy will interest students of history and theatre. Kennedy is a respected African-American playwright who deals with issues of

race, gender, "selfhood," and "performativity" in American cultures. Kolin, professor of English at the University of Southern Mississippi, has published similar studies of Edward Albee, Tennessee Williams, and William Shakespeare.

This volume features Kolin's preface along with a series editor's preface, notes, a selected bibliography, and an index.

Understanding Literature

Crayton, Lisa A. *A Student Guide to Toni Morrison*. Berkeley Heights, N.J.: Enslow, 2005. 160 pp. ISBN 0-7660-2436-9, \$27.93. (list); \$20.95 (library and school) .

This student guide is a good choice for readers in grades six through nine who want to learn more about important writers in American and world literature. Morrison was a Pulitzer Prize winner for fiction in 1988 and the Nobel laureate for literature in 1993. Offering both biographical and critical information, Crayton's study also introduces young readers to general literary concepts, such as metaphors, with examples from Morrison's novels. Because of its simple, straightforward writing and useful definitions of terms and concepts, this is a good study for those just beginning to appreciate classic literature.

This volume includes a chronology, chapter notes, a glossary, a list of major works by Morrison, lists of biographical and critical works for further reading, Internet addresses, and an index.

What Makes Me a . . .

Geroge, Charles. *What Makes Me Amish?* Farmington, Mich.: Kidhaven, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 0-7377-3081-1, \$23.70.

Geroge, Charles. *What Makes Me a Unitarian?* Farmington, Mich.: Kidhaven, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 0-7377-3181-8, \$23.70.

Juettner, Marie. *What Makes Me a Jehovah's Witness?* Farmington, Mich.: Kidhaven, 2005. 48 pp. ISBN 0-7377-3084-6, \$23.70.

This series for elementary and middle school provides clear and practical discussions of the major religions of the world, which include their origins, core beliefs, rituals or customs and their meaning, holidays, and changes and challenges. Young students will learn in a short time the differences and similarities between the religions. The volumes are divided into four chapters, each in the form of a question. For example, chapter one is "How Did My Religion Begin?" and chapter two is "What Do I Believe?" Only *What Makes Me Amish?* has an introduction.

Each volume contains an index, full-color photographs, a glossary, and sources for further exploration. 