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## Book Review of The Symbolic Presidency: How Presidents Portray Themselves by Barbara Hinckley

Michael A. Genovese

Loyola Marymount University, [mgenovese@lmu.edu](mailto:mgenovese@lmu.edu)

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## SOCIAL SCIENCE

### Davis, David Brion. **Revolutions: Reflections on American Equality and Foreign Liberations.**

Harvard Univ. Pr. (William E. Massey Sr. Lectures in History of American Civilization). Sept. 1990. c.130p. permanent paper. index. LC 89-48924. ISBN 0-674-76805-1. \$19.95. POL SCI

In this transcribed lecture, noted historian Davis praises those who fostered dreams of equality, particularly in the United States. Frequently, Davis mentions concepts such as natural rights, equality, revolution, but he neglects analysis of these ideas, and he provides too many detailed historical references for the general reader. More philosophical on the spirit of the American Revolution, and from a similar progressive viewpoint, is Hannah Arendt's *On Revolution* (LJ 8/64). For larger academic libraries only.—Gordon Tolle, *South Dakota State Univ., Brookings*

### ★Doder, Dusko & Louise Branson. **Gorbachev: Heretic in the Kremlin.**

Viking. Jun. 1990. c.442p. index. ISBN 0-670-82472-0. \$22.95. INT AFFAIRS

Doder and Branson, Moscow correspondents for the *Washington Post* and *London Times*, respectively, examine the political battles Gorbachev has had to fight since assuming power in 1985. This work is a sequel of sorts to Doder's *Shadows and Whispers* (LJ 1/15/87), and continues the

authoritative and revealing insights into Kremlin politics. It also explores the evolution of Gorbachev as a political visionary and describes the resistance Gorbachev's plans have received from both ends of the political spectrum. The authors skillfully bring to life the Soviet political players, including frequent Gorbachev opponent Boris Yeltsin, who recently wrote his autobiography, *Against the Grain* (Summit, 1990). Even the much-analyzed Gorbachev comes more fully into view here, set against the backdrop of an empire undergoing a wrenching transition. An important book for anyone who wants to know what the Soviet leadership faces in the 1990s.—Kim H. Tunicliff, *Albion Coll., Mich.*

### Grimes, Ann. **Running Mates: The Image and Reality of the First Lady Role.**

Morrow. 1990. c.352p. index. ISBN 0-688-08532-6. \$21.95. POLITICS

Journalist/documentary filmmaker Grimes provides a well-written, thoughtful analysis of the role played by the wives of presidential candidates during the 1988 campaign. These women—and wives of politicians generally, says Grimes—have difficulty retaining independent status. Elizabeth Dole and Marilyn Quayle, for example, are both professionals, yet at times they have had to sacrifice their careers to campaign for their husbands. Grimes suggests that Barbara Bush may be the last

political spouse of her kind. She predicts that, although Americans may not be ready for the change, future first ladies will most likely continue their careers. Recommended for all political science and women's studies collections.—Eleanor A. Schwab, *South Dakota State Univ., Brookings*

### Hinckley, Barbara. **The Symbolic Presidency: How Presidents Portray Themselves.**

Routledge: Routledge, Chapman & Hall. Jul. 1990. c.193p. bibliog. index.

ISBN 0-415-90267-3. \$35; pap. ISBN 0-415-90268-1. \$13.95. POL SCI

Hinckley (politics, NYU and election consultant, ABC News) provides a valuable review of, and an important addition to, recent literature on the U.S. presidency. She examines how modern U.S. Presidents (Truman to Reagan) presented themselves to the public and discusses the impact of that style of presentation. She sees the development of a "symbolic presidency," with the U.S. Presidents the country's primary political agent, working alone and linked to "the people" and "the nation" in an almost religious way by the shared or symbolic power generating from the "symbolic equivalence" created by the pronoun "we." For academic collections.—Michael A. Genovese, *Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles*

### ★Human Rights in China. **Children of the Dragon: The Story of Tiananmen Square.**

Collier: Macmillan. Jun. 1990. c.224p. photogs. ISBN 0-02-033520-2. \$19.95.

INT AFFAIRS

Produced under the aegis of the Human Rights in China organization, this utterly absorbing account of last year's democracy movement in China is woven from the testimony of student participants, sympathetic Chinese intellectuals, and eyewitness foreign observers, as well as from excerpts from the contemporary Chinese press. Better than any of the other recent books on this subject, this vividly re-creates a most exciting and hopeful moment in recent Chinese history, as well as the tense drama leading to the bloody crackdown of June 4, 1989. Lavishly illustrated with dozens of contemporary photos, this collection includes an interesting essay on the history of Tiananmen Square by the noted historian Jonathan Spence (*The Search for Modern China*, LJ 4/15/90) and moving afterwords by Andrew J. Nathan (*China's Crisis*, LJ 5/1/90) and China's leading dissident, Fang Lizhi. For all collections.—Steven I. Levine, *Duke Univ., Durham, N.C.*

### "My Brother's Keeper?": Recent Polish Debates on the Holocaust.

Routledge: Routledge, Chapman & Hall. 1990. c.242p. ed. by Antony Polonsky. index. LC 89-6208. ISBN 0-415-04232-1. \$25. INT AFFAIRS

In 1987, Jan Blonski, Professor of Polish literature, published an article in a Krakow-based Catholic weekly calling for Poland to

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