

1-1-1999

Book Review of 'The Road to the White House, 2000: The Politics of Presidential Elections,' by Stephen J. Wayne

Michael A. Genovese

Loyola Marymount University, mgenovese@lmu.edu

Repository Citation

Genovese, Michael A., "Book Review of 'The Road to the White House, 2000: The Politics of Presidential Elections,' by Stephen J. Wayne" (1999). *Political Science Faculty Works*. 91.
http://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/poli_fac/91

Recommended Citation

Genovese, M. A. (1999). Reviews the book 'The Road to the White House, 2000: The Politics of Presidential Elections,' by Stephen J. Wayne. *Library Journal*, 124(19), 85.

than top U.S. officials dare to admit. Pry's accounts of five war scares since 1983 and his review of the profound internal crisis in Russia are not for the faint of heart. Even if we disagree with him on just how close to nuclear Armageddon we actually are, his book reminds us that Russia's nuclear force poses a genuine threat to U.S. national security far into the 21st century. It also reminds us that the Clinton administration's nuclear-risk-reduction proposals are much more than another foreign giveaway. It is unfortunate that *War Scare*, so long in the works, does not provide an updated assessment of relations between Russia and the West in the aftermath of NATO's expansion and the Kosovo conflict, when East-West relations have nose-dived. Otherwise, it is a valuable book.—*John Raymond Walser, U.S. Dept of State, Washington, DC*

Schraeder, Peter J. African Politics and Society: A Mosaic in Transformation.

St. Martin's. Nov. 1999. c.384p. illus. ISBN 0-312-21947-4. \$35. INT AFFAIRS
This is the first contemporary, comprehensive, and single-authored textbook to scrutinize continuity and change in African politics and society from precolonial times to the present, with particular emphasis on the post-Cold War era. Based on extensive research and travels to Africa that included research meetings, interviews, and discussions with African intellectuals and commoners, the book is divided into six major parts. Each part is then subdivided into chapters that explain African politics and society by exploring the general evolution of rival theoretical perspectives, the historical context, the sociocultural context of current trends, continuity and change in governance, and foreign relations during the contemporary independence era. Easy to comprehend and thoroughly intriguing, Schraeder's (political science, Loyola Univ.) book sheds light on our understanding of the complex social, economic, and political environment of contemporary Africa and is well worth debating. This book lists a wide variety of print and electronic research resources and also includes an appendix with a country-by-country list of 128 introductory volumes, bibliographies, and historical dictionaries. A most valuable contribution to African studies.—*Edward G. McCormack, Univ. of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast, Long Beach*

Steel, Ronald. In Love with Night: The American Romance with Robert Kennedy.

S. & S. Jan. 2000. c.210p. ISBN 0-684-80829-3. \$23. POLITICS
The images of Bobby Kennedy as tribune of the poor and the last hope of his generation are, according to Steel (*Walter Lippmann and the American Century*), enduring myths created by an American public

desperately searching for heroes during the volatile Sixties. Steel relies on almost all secondary works to portray Robert Kennedy as a ruthless politician who followed the Kennedy mantra of victory at all costs: an opportunistic predator whose attempt to form a coalition of the powerless was made primarily to discredit Lyndon Johnson's middle class-targeted Great Society and whose advocacy of Civil Rights was a ploy for black votes. Steel questionably assumes that Robert Kennedy was a conservative because he supported tough crime control and individual responsibility, although these were then in the liberal agenda. Kennedy's appeal is the result of his myth-within-a-myth inheritance of President Kennedy's Camelot; yet the author does acknowledge RFK's true legacy of promoting the public good over personal greed. This is reason enough to fondly remember Bobby Kennedy. See R.D. Mahoney's *Sons and Brothers* (LJ 7/99) for an investigation of the Kennedys that shares some of Steel's views. Recommended for public libraries; purchase as demand war-rants.—*Karl Helicher, Upper Merion Twp. Lib., King of Prussia, PA*

Wayne, Stephen J. The Road to the White House, 2000: The Politics of Presidential Elections.

St. Martin's. Jan. 2000. c.367p. illus. index. LC 99-62370. ISBN 0-312-22638-1. \$35. POLITICS
Deservedly one of the best-selling presidential campaign books on the market, Wayne (government, Georgetown Univ.) has published this updated version of his popular classic, incorporating many of the key changes that have taken place in American politics since the 1996 election. Designed as a primer on the American presidential selection process, this clear and comprehensive text is an excellent introduction to the politics of the presidential race. Wayne covers all the key areas of the race and offers an especially strong discussion of the complexities and contradictions of the current campaign finance dilemma. While there are several good books on the presidential selection process, Wayne's is highly readable, clearly presented, and possibly the finest work available on the politics of presidential elections. Highly recommended for public and academic libraries.—*Michael A. Genovese, Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles*

West, Cornel. The Cornel West Reader.

Basic Civitas Bks: Perseus. Nov. 1999. c.720p. index. ISBN 0-465-09109-1. \$35. POLITICS
This reader, edited by West himself (Alphonse Fletcher, Jr. University Professor, Harvard Univ.), presents essays covering his impressive career and development

as an intellectual, philosopher, cultural critic, and "Chekhovian Christian." Arranged in eight thematic sections—autobiography, modernity, pragmatism, Marxism, political praxes, Christian thought, the arts, and controversial racial issues—this work reveals that West's profound commitment to and quest for social justice, across differences, is unrelentingly compassionate and sometimes decorously and ostensibly innocent. Yet West does not feel obligated to write for the everyday folks, especially black folks, he champions. The selected essays, unlike those in his best-selling *Race Matters* (LJ 3/15/93), are highly theoretical and academic, accessible only to the highly educated. Furthermore, West himself declares that he has given up journalism (a forum in which he could create and maintain a broader audience base) because journalistic writing "can become too simplistic, flat, or clever." For most, these scholarly writings will be too obtuse, convoluted, and pretentious. Recommended for academic libraries.—*Sherri Barnes, Univ. of California Lib., Santa Barbara*

Psychology

★Field, Martha A. & Valerie A. Sanchez. Equal Treatment for People with Mental Retardation: Having and Raising Children.

Harvard Univ. Jan. 2000. c.448p. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-674-80086-9. \$49.95. PSYCH
Field, a Harvard law professor and author of *Surrogate Motherhood* (LJ 11/15/88), and civil liberties practitioner Sanchez provide a comprehensive examination of the reproductive and parental rights of



SPACESAVER LIBRARY SHELVING & DISPLAY SYSTEM BROCHURE

Spacesaver library shelving and display systems allow you to shelve, display and merchandise a wide variety of media. Bookstack and divider type assemblies are available for both mobile and static systems. Special shelves accommodate video and audio cassettes, CDs, microfilm and multimedia. Each shelf, frame and accessory is made to ensure simple reassembly when you need to reconfigure. Call for FREE LITERATURE.

Spacesaver Corp. 800-492-3434