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Book Review of 'The Reagan Effect: Economics and Presidential Leadership,' by John W. Sloan

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audacity to support the American Youth Congress—disillusioned young adults with Communist sympathies—and denounce Joseph McCarthy. Racism, generation gaps, and education also drove her to write with both compassion and a sterling clarity that transcended her husband's politics. Recommended for all public and academic libraries. (Photos not seen.)—*Heather McCormack, "Library Journal"*

Sloan, John W.

The Reagan Effect: Economics and Presidential Leadership.

Univ. of Kansas. May 1999. c.320p. permanent paper. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-7006-0951-2. \$35. POLITICS

The academic community remains polarized in its assessment of U.S. economic performance during the Reagan years. Sloan (political science, Univ. of Houston) attempts to evaluate the Left and Right critiques of Reagan's economic legacy and move beyond the polemics to present a balanced evaluation of those contentious years. Sloan discusses the many pluses (low inflation, revived competitiveness, increased production) and minuses (high deficits, a widening income gap, the S & L crisis) of the Reagan presidency and concludes that Reagan was a successful political leader whose contribution to the U.S. economy was mixed but positive overall. Reagan's failure to deal with issues of social justice diminishes the claim that he was a "moral leader," but, Sloan argues, his political skill in delivering on his agenda made Reagan a successful president. A valuable addition to the debate on the legacy of the Reagan presidency.—*Michael A. Genovese, Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles*

Trachtenberg, Marc. A Constructed Peace: The Making of the European Settlement; 1945–1963.

Princeton Univ. Apr. 1999. c.448p. permanent paper. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-691-00183-9. \$60; pap. ISBN 0-691-00273-8. \$19.95. INT AFFAIRS

The launch of the Euro, the potential deployment of U.S. troops in Kosovo, and NATO's 50th anniversary highlight the stability sweepstakes in Europe. Trachtenberg (history, Univ. of Pennsylvania), a premier U.S. scholar of international relations, tells how Europe, progenitor of global war and incendiary ideology, was tamed by the United States and Russia. Trachtenberg's work is an exhaustive, well-written study of statecraft at the highest levels. Despite the global U.S.–Soviet rivalry, Germany held (and still holds) the key to global peace. Exploiting print and archival sources, Trachtenberg argues that by 1963, at the beginning of the Vietnam War, a stable system of Cold War relations was in place. This system rested on the status quo in Central Europe, particularly in Berlin;

nuclear deterrence (read a nonnuclear Germany); and U.S. troops in Europe. De facto détente existed well before Nixon and Kissinger made it policy. Despite the demise of the Soviet Union and the advent of a New Order, this Germany-centered system endures. We ignore it at our peril. Recommended.—*John Raymond Walser, U.S. Dept. of State, Washington, DC*

Psychology

Anthony, Carmen. Getting Married After 40: Advice & Inspiration from 100 Women Who Found Good Men & Happy Marriages.

Adams Media. Apr. 1999. c.256p. ISBN 1-58062-115-5. pap. \$12.95. PSYCH

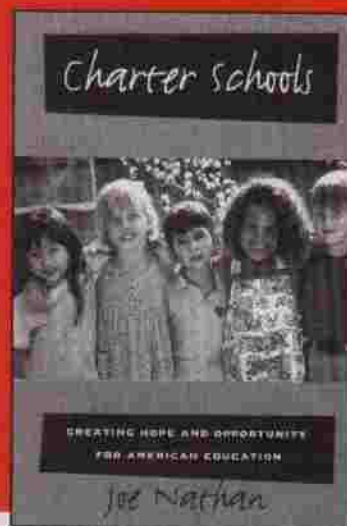
Anthony, a UPI reporter, was herself married for the second time after 40. She bases this quick-reading, feel-good collection of vignettes on questionnaires she sent to 100 women, all of whom married after 40 and sometimes much later, most often for the second or third time. She then followed up the questionnaire with personal interviews. We've read much of this advice before; what takes this book beyond the women's magazine columns is Anthony's questions. The answers reveal hard-earned wisdom on what to avoid and how to cope. The ten

chapters cover getting back into circulation, first dates, children (his, yours, and maybe ours), the first year, finances, trying not to get cold feet, and making it last. The advice is grouped by subject, and the interviewed women speak in the first person; there is no psychological commentary and no analysis of what a woman did or should have done differently. Women will buy this book for their single friends and relatives. For public libraries.—*Susan E. Burdick, MLS, Reading, PA*

Jaycox, Victoria. Single Again: A Guide for Women Starting Over.

Norton. 1999. c.256p. ISBN 0-393-04699-0. \$23.95. PSYCH

Jaycox's book, although dull reading, is full of practical tips for women who find themselves single after many years of marriage. The book is a combination of tips from Jaycox (not single, but separated and then reunited); interviews with women who were married at least ten years with at least two years of singlehood afterward, both widowed and divorced; and the collected wisdom of professionals in mental health. The chapters tell the story: "facing the chasm," "coping with stress," "dealing with lawyers," "financial expertise," "getting a job," and so on. This book should have a sizable audience



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