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Book Review of 'Dead Center: Clinton-Gore Leadership and the Perils of Moderation,' by James McGregor Burns and Georgia J. Sorenson, with Robin Gerber and Scott W. Webster

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SOCIAL SCIENCES

beat, rape, or kill. Together with Athens's own hardscrabble, violence-filled upbringing, this theory—derived as it is from qualitative rather than quantitative research—has made his existence within the academic community difficult. Rhodes, a Pulitzer Prize winner (*The Making of the Atomic Bomb*) and himself a victim of childhood violence, offers a compelling look at Athens, his work, and its application to noted violent offenders, different eras and cultures, and men at war. Recommended for academic and larger public libraries. [Previewed in Prepub Alert, *LJ* 5/1/99.]—*Jim G. Burns, Ottumwa P.L., IA*

★**Stewart, James B. Blind Eye: How the Medical Establishment Let a Doctor Get Away with Murder.**

S. & S. Sept. 1999. c.320p. ISBN 684-85484-8. \$25.

CRIME

Over a 15-year period, physician Michael Swango left a trail of death and injury from New York to Zimbabwe. He moved from place to place under a cloud of suspicion and rumor, yet he was always able to secure credentials (some authentic, some forged) in spite of his past. He could do so in part because some physicians declined to make or believe the accusations against a fellow practitioner and in part because of his natural, if odd, charm. In spite of several patient deaths, hospital authorities were reluctant to involve law enforcement because they believed they lacked hard evidence, not to mention fear of scandal or panicking the public. In the end Swango was arrested by the FBI on fraud charges; it's estimated that he may have been responsible for up to 60 deaths. With the passage of time, loss of evidence, and failing memories, most of those deaths may go unanswered. Stewart, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author (*Den of Thieves*), offers not only a fascinating look at a psychopath masquerading as a healer but also a disturbing exposé of the system that fails to protect the public. His book reads like a Robin Cook thriller; unfortunately, it's not fiction. Highly recommended. [Previewed in Prepub Alert, *LJ* 2/15/99.]—*Anne C. Tomlin, Auburn Memorial Hosp. Lib., NY*

Whittington, Keith E. Constitutional Interpretation: Textual Meaning, Original Intent, and Judicial Review.

Univ. Pr. of Kansas. Sept. 1999. 320p. permanent paper. ISBN 0-7006-0969-5. \$39.95.

LAW

Constitutional theory and judicial interpretation are major ways to understand the U.S. Constitution and the U.S. Supreme Court's role in American society. Whittington (politics, Princeton) offers an innovative constitutional theory based upon originalism, a revised normative defense of original intent. As a means of constitutional interpretation, originalism limits government actions within the constitutional

framework and extends constitutional meaning to current disputes. Supreme Court interpretation and construction of the Constitution are analytically distinguished as ways to achieve constitutional meaning. Whittington demonstrates how the Court's legal and political foundations led to its judicial review authority over other governmental branches. This carefully constructed study of how "constitutional interpretation can fit into a larger theory of constitutional practice and authority" is highly recommended for legal scholars, academics, and individuals interested in the foundations of American government and the judiciary.—*Steven Puro, St. Louis Univ.*

Yalof, David Alistair. Pursuit of Justices: Presidential Politics and the Selection of Supreme Court Nominees.

Univ. of Chicago. Oct. 1999. c.280p. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-226-94545-6. \$27.50.

LAW

The author focuses on a frequently overlooked aspect of the nominating process for U.S. Supreme Court justices: Since the Senate has confirmed 89 percent of Presidential selections in the 20th century, the decision-making process that occurs prior to Senate consideration amounts to an approval process almost as significant as that rendered by Congress. Combining the analysis of documents from seven presidential libraries and numerous archives with personal interviews granted by former government officials close to their respective presidents, the author notes the political struggles that Supreme Court nominees must first survive within the Executive Branch, before the nomination fight moves to the Senate. The author concludes that three factors are now crucial for a Supreme Court nomination to make a positive political mark on a President's historical legacy: reasonable expectations from his supporters, decision-making flexibility, and highly qualified subordinates. Yalof adeptly parallels the experiences of those Presidents who successfully employed such mechanics (Ford and Clinton) with those who sometimes did not (Nixon and Reagan). An excellent book for anyone interested in recent Supreme Court history and the politics of the changing times it represents.—*Philip Young Blue, New York State Supreme Court Criminal Branch Lib., New York*

Parapsychology

Cayce, Edgar. My Life as a Seer: The Lost Memoirs.

St. Martin's. Oct. 1999. c.400p. ed. by A. Robert Smith. photogs. index. ISBN 0-312-20419-1. \$25.95.

PARAPSYCH

Cayce enthusiasts and those interested in psychic phenomena in general will find a treasure in these republished memoirs. A

well-known psychic who did what were called "readings" (primarily diagnosing illnesses and prescribing cures) while in a self-induced trancelike state, Cayce died in 1945. These memoirs give the reader insight into Cayce's childhood, his values and beliefs, and how he viewed his gift. The person who emerges from these memoirs is someone who, despite his fame and an unusual ability, was quite ordinary and who found success in life somewhat elusive. Cayce's significance makes this a recommended addition to public and academic libraries alike.—*John Moryl, Yeshiva Univ. Libs., New York*

Political Science

Anderson, Jack with Daryl Gibson. Peace, War and Politics: An Eyewitness Account.

Forge: Tor. Oct. 1999. c.416p. photogs. index. ISBN 0-312-85602-4. \$27.95.

POLITICS

Theodore Roosevelt first used the term *muckraker* to castigate those who constantly peered into the muck of his presidency. Anderson takes on that moniker with pride, and after 50 years of peering into the seamy and steamy side of Washington—first with Drew Pearson and, after 1969, on his own—it fits. Anderson's latest book updates his 1979 autobiography *Confessions of a Muckraker* and covers not only his earlier investigations but also his crusades against the shenanigans of the Carter (Billy Carter and Libya), Reagan (Iran-contra), Bush, and Clinton administrations. Anderson tells his story as he wishes it to be heard, so we, of course, will probably never know what is true and what is pure balderdash. He says he knows the truth behind Kennedy's assassination, but he admits that despite his best efforts he never learned who "Deep Throat" was. This is a fun book that should be enjoyed by audiences far and wide who like a little dirt with their politics.—*Edward Goedeken, Iowa State Univ. Lib., Ames*

Burns, James MacGregor & Georgia J. Sorenson, with Robin Gerber & Scott W. Webster. Dead Center: Clinton-Gore Leadership and the Perils of Moderation.

Scribner. Nov. 1999. c.416p. index. ISBN 0-684-83778-1. \$27.50.

POLITICS
Distinguished presidential scholar and Pulitzer Prize winner Burns and coauthor Sorenson have written a first-rate analysis of the Clinton presidency as it nears the end of the second term. Unlike some of Clinton's critics, who argue that there is no "there" there in Clinton's approaches to politics and policy, these authors make a compelling case that Clinton had a sophisticated and integrated "leadership strategy"—centrism—and that, personal failings

aside, he has exercised this strategy with considerable skill and success. But they argue that Clinton's ambition to be a great, even transformative, leader clashed with political necessity. Ultimately, they conclude, a "contradiction lay at the heart of Clinton's leadership: if he truly aspired to presidential greatness, the strategy he had chosen ensured he would never achieve it." A fair, balanced, and insightful analysis of the Clinton presidency at twilight, this is one of the best examinations of the Clinton presidency available. Recommended for public and academic libraries.—*Michael A. Genovese, Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles*

Gálvez, William. Che in Africa: Che Guevara's Congo Diary.

Ocean, dist. by LPC/InBook. 1999. 310p. tr. by Mary Todd. bibliog. ISBN 1-876175-08-7. pap. \$19.95. INT AFFAIRS
In April 1965, Ernesto "Che" Guevara left Cuba and mysteriously disappeared, eventually resurfacing in revolutionary Bolivia, where he lived until his assassination in October 1967. Now we know that he spent most of 1965 and 1966 in Central Africa, helping anti-Mobutu revolutionaries in the Republic of Congo. This new volume is a collection of writings from and about those years: fragments of letters he wrote, bits of an unpublished manuscript called *Pasajes de la guerra revolucionaria: Congo* (which Che wrote shortly after leaving the Congo), and transcripts of interviews with Che's compatriots. Gálvez, who is a brigadier general in the Cuban army as well as an experienced biographer, ties all of this together with fine, explanatory introductions. Although the title is a misnomer (since most of the information comes from the manuscript written by Che and not the diary itself), this collection provides a documentary history not found in any other publication. Recommended for libraries with collections on Africa or Cuba.—*Mark L. Grover, Brigham Young Univ. Lib., Provo, UT*

Human Rights in Political Transition: Gettysburg to Bosnia.

Zone, dist. by MIT. Dec. 1999. c.344p. ed. by Carla Hesse & Robert Post. LC 98-40737. ISBN 1-890951-00-5. pap. \$19. INT AFFAIRS
Human rights, as statesmen and diplomats know, are at the core of contemporary political thought and international action. But are human rights genuinely universal? Can the world community override national sovereignty to enforce respect for human rights? What do we do to prevent future Rwandas and Kosovos? Readers ready to tackle such big political and ethical questions will find plenty to reflect upon in this collection of insightful essays. The distinguished panel of contributors, who range from activists to university law professors,

concentrate on four basic themes: punishment, reconciliation, creating a culture of law, and transitions. Well-constructed essays discuss lessons learned in Argentina, Chile, and Haiti and at the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia and build on historical experience to develop new legal concepts. Along the way, it is argued that truly putting the horrors of the 20th century behind us will require even broader recognition of the universality of human rights and that the culture of democracy builds respect for human rights just as it dampens our urge to fight. Recommended for academic libraries.—*Raymond Walser, U.S. Dept. of State, Washington, DC*

Kunhardt, Philip B., Jr. & others. The American President.

Riverhead: Putnam. Oct. 1999. c.448p. illus. bibliog. index. LC 99-30869. ISBN 1-57322-149-X. \$50. POLITICS
This work of end-of-the-century American history offers an interesting perspective on the Presidents that may not be best presented in a general coffee-table book format. The authors, Kunhardt Jr., a former managing editor of *LIFE* magazine, and his two filmmaker sons, Peter W. Kunhardt and Philip B. Kunhardt III, base their narratives on the scholarly Presidential model of Stephen Skowronek (*The Politics Presidents Make*, *LJ* 8/93), who categorizes Presidents by the similar problems they encounter: one category groups Presidents by their heroic reputations, while other categories take into account the President's political circumstances, the expanding power of the office, and the officeholders' individual mindsets. The book is profusely illustrated, and each President receives a two- to three-page discussion and an "In His Words" section. The writing is informative but not as interesting, nor are the photographs as emotionally compelling, as that found in Harold Evans's *The American Century* (*LJ* 10/1/98). Yet this work is recommended for larger public libraries because of its fascinating view of Presidential behavior, its tie-in with a PBS series to be aired in 2000, and its being picked as a BOMC main selection.—*Karl Helicher, Upper Merion Twp. Lib., King of Prussia, PA*

Kushner, Tony & Katherine Knox. Refugees in an Age of Genocide: Global, National and Local Perspectives During the Twentieth Century.

Frank Cass, dist. by Intl. Specialized Bk. Svcs. 1999. c.505p. illus. maps. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-7146-4783-7. \$67.50; pap. ISBN 0-7146-4341-6. \$32.50. INT AFFAIRS
Despite its title, this book focuses on British policy toward refugees in the 20th century. The authors establish unequivocally that asylum for the persecuted is a "privilege granted by the state and not

an automatic right" and is constrained by limited resources. Often, the "privilege" seems an outcome of political circumstance, economic calculation, and overt racism. Since all major refugee groups are included, the book permits comparison between British treatment of anti-Communist Poles and Hungarians in the 1950s, for example, and European Jews and Ugandan Asians. Less successful are the efforts to explain the interplay of "global, national, and local" factors in the overall refugee situation. However, the authors' account of the work of grass-roots organizations on behalf of refugees in the county of Hampshire, an important settlement area, is an example of fine scholarship and distinguished altruism. Although this book is most suitable for larger academic libraries, it is useful for any library with good collections in European history and Holocaust studies.—*Zachary T. Irwin, Pennsylvania State Univ., Erie*

The Russian Transformation: Political, Sociological, and Psychological Aspects.

St. Martin's. Sept. 1999. c.304p. ed. by Betty Glad & Eric Shirayev. ISBN 0-312-21566-5. \$49.95. INT AFFAIRS
The current political, social, and economic strife in Russia lends urgency to this compilation of essays about its transformation from communism to capitalism. Glad (political science, Univ. of South Carolina) and Shirayev (political science, George Washington Univ.) have pulled together an impressive list of nine writers from both the United States and Russia to give balance, perspective, and insight into Russia's cultural transformations over the past decade. Unfortunately, the book suffers from poor organization: the writings seem a bit disjointed until the conclusion, where Andrei Melville explains that "to even attempt to understand such a complex process, a holistic approach employing concepts from several different disciplines is almost a necessity." Read the last chapter first for a proper understanding of each successive writer—and refer to the wonderful tables by Gordon Smith, which clearly explain the stages of transformation.—*Harry V. Willems, Southeast Kansas Lib. Syst., Iola*

Psychology

Brown, Emily M. Affairs: A Guide to Working Through the Repercussions of Infidelity.

Jossey-Bass. Sept. 1999. c.256p. permanent paper. bibliog. index. LC 99-6189. ISBN 0-7879-5004-1. \$25. PSYCH
Brown, director of the Key Bridge Therapy and Mediation Center, puts her experiences as therapist and mediator to good purpose in her book. She outlines five types