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Book Review of "Character: Profiles in Presidential Courage," by Chris Wallace

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cate to critic who argues that mainstream conservatism has abandoned its roots. Neo-conservatives (neocons), says Gold, have redefined the movement's goals to fight a culture war and lead an aggressive national foreign policy. His challenge to conservatism's intellectual shortcomings includes personal efforts to oppose the war in Iraq and the neocons' agenda "because they threaten us with both financial and moral bankruptcy." The principles of Gold's "retaken Right," or new conservatism for the 21st century, are based upon the American Founders' fundamental sensibility, including the possibilities of human freedom without ideological or religious rigidity. Gold's attempted personal conversation with the citizenry often follows multiple paths and would be useful for some public libraries.—Steven Puro, St. Louis Univ.

HAZAN, PIERRE. *Justice in a Time of War.* Texas A&M Univ. Nov. 2004. c.240p. tr. from French by James Thomas Snyder. photogs. bibliog. index. ISBN 1-58544-377-8. \$40; pap. ISBN 1-58544-411-1. \$18.95.

INT AFFAIRS

The International Criminal Court, now sitting at the Hague hearing cases from the Balkan conflicts of the 1990s, is the first such tribunal in 60 years. Hazan, a journalist with *Liberation* in Paris, tells its story from the first UN Security Council resolution in 1993 to the continuing trial of Slobodan Milosevic. In his view, a few determined individuals have pushed and prodded and tested the limits of their authority to force progress on a reluctant tribunal. Throughout, the author is sharply critical of the Western governments for their persistent efforts to negotiate ceasefire settlements with those they are now trying to indict, their failure to provide any support or funding for the tribunal, and their efforts to avoid intervention on the ground despite additional casualties and suffering. The story of ethnic cleansing in the Balkans is well told in Elizabeth Neuffer's *Key to My Neighbor's House*. The tension between intervention and a law-based resolution of the conflict emerges clearly here. The strident tone may offend some readers, but the points here need to be made. Most suitable for academic and law libraries.—Marcia L. Sprules, Council on Foreign Relations Lib., New York

MATLOCK, JACK F. JR. *Reagan and Gorbachev: How the Cold War Ended.* Random. 2004. c.384p. photogs. index. ISBN 0-679-46323-2. \$27.95. INT AFFAIRS

As a top National Security Council aide to President Reagan from 1983 to 1986 and the U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union from

1986 to 1991, Soviet expert Matlock was a firsthand witness to the end of the Cold War. Based upon his notes and recollections, interviews with many of the principals, and research in English and Russian sources, this book is an account of the summit diplomacy of Reagan and Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev, men whose pragmatism, stature, and skill were essential, judges Matlock, to ending their countries' nuclear standoff. The broad story of the Cold War's end, however, can be found in quite a few other books, including Matlock's own *Autopsy on an Empire* (1995), and with the recent death of Reagan, before long it will surely be told and retold again. Although a witness to history, Matlock is not such a gifted writer that the detail he adds here will be enough to draw and hold any but dedicated readers. An optional choice for public and academic libraries building deep collections on the topic.—Robert F. Nardini, Chichester, NH


WALLACE, CHRIS. *Character: Profiles in Presidential Courage. Rugged Land.* 2004. c.219p. bibliog. ISBN 1-59071-038-X. \$27.95. POLITICS

The author, host of *Fox News Sunday* and former White House correspondent for

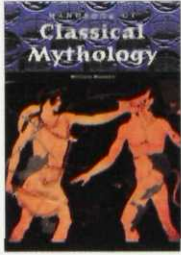
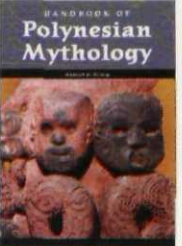
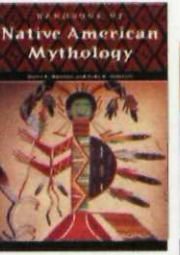
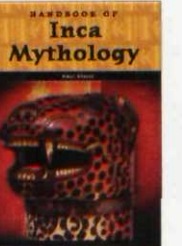
NBC News, considers 16 examples of what he refers to as presidential "character" but which are really examples of political "courage" (as the subtitle suggests). Wallace looks at such acts of courage as the President defying advice or popular opinion and doing what he believed to be the right thing. Dividing his work into four sections ("Internal Strife," "Executive Action," "The Map of Peace," and "Against the Enemy"), he uses a flowing style and sweeping approach, skating quickly over his examples and giving readers an outline only of the circumstances confronting each President and the decisions made. Wallace displays a presidentialist bias, often discounting the cautions or alternatives offered by the President's critics and even seeming to dismiss out of hand advice from members of Congress, staff, and citizens. At times, what Wallace calls courage may just as easily be pigheadedness, abuse of power, or folly. An optional purchase.—Michael A. Genovese, Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles

Where We Stand: Voices of Southern Dissent. NewSouth. 2004. c.250p. ed. by Anthony M. Dunbar. ISBN 1-58838-169-2. \$24.95. POLITICS

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