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# Book Review of 'Ambling into History: The Unlikely Odyssey of George W. Bush,' by Frank Bruni

Michael A. Genovese

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

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party had its own agenda, and orchestrating the many voices over a lengthy and frustrating investigation was difficult. Adair, a writer for the *St. Petersburg Times*, closely follows the investigation as it creates and discards hundreds of theories, from bird impact to Mafia assassination. He dissects the enormously complicated investigation and ably explains the many competing issues that make aircraft disasters so difficult to bring to closure. His examination of the behind-the-scenes work that shapes airline safety policy is detailed and absorbing. Recommended for aeronautics, public policy, and journalism collections.—*Edwin B. Burgess, U.S. Army Combined Arms Research Lib., Fort Leavenworth, KS*

**Aleinikoff, T. Alexander. *Semblances of Sovereignty: The Constitution, the State, and American Citizenship.***

Harvard Univ. May 2002. c.320p. index. ISBN 0-674-00745-X. \$45. LAW  
Addressing fundamental constitutional issues of citizenship and statehood in American society, Aleinikoff (Georgetown Univ. Law Ctr., Migration Policy Inst.) here introduces the concept of "sovereignty studies." Such studies aim to examine relationships between sovereignty, i.e., "supreme legal authority in the national state," and membership in our society as defined by U.S. constitutional law. Aleinikoff focuses upon U.S. Supreme Court decisions involving federal power over immigration, Indian tribes, and "territories" such as Puerto Rico. He demonstrates that the Court has historically placed virtually no limitations on congressional authority, i.e., plenary powers, to regulate citizenship rights in these three areas. This book not only provides careful analysis of U.S. Supreme Court and congressional relationships but also could lead to novel studies of rights and obligations in American society. Highly recommended for academic and larger public libraries.—*Steven Puro, St. Louis Univ.*

**Lee, Henry C. & Thomas W. O'Neil. *Cracking Cases: The Science of Solving Crimes.***

Prometheus. Apr. 2002. c.300p. photogs. bibliog. ISBN 1-57392-985-9. \$26. CRIME  
*Lee (Famous Crime Scenes Revisited: From Sacco-Vanzetti to O.J. Simpson)* is a world-renowned forensic criminologist and chief emeritus in the Department of Public Safety in Meriden, CT. In his newest book (written with journalist O'Neil), he discusses the forensic findings of five cases—all involving emotional and physical domestic abuse resulting in the death of the female partner. The cases are absorbing, from O.J. to the Wood Chipper, "which contributed to a change in the American criminal justice system," to police officers who believed their profession-

al experience would be sufficient to turn forensic suspicion away from them to one very angry college professor. The manner in which some of these men decided to carry out their crimes is horrific. Lee carefully sets out the forensic evidence used at trial: DNA, blood spatters, gunshot residue (GSR), bodily injury, stomach contents, and the very important stages of body decomposition. Lee presents the cases in a straightforward manner, relating the forensic evidence and explaining in fascinating detail how the data work to exonerate or convict. Recommended for public and academic libraries.—*Karen Evans, Indiana State Univ. Lib., Terre Haute*

**Sullivan, Randall. *Labyrinth.***

Atlantic Monthly. Apr. 2002. c.336p. photogs. ISBN 0-87113-838-7. \$25. CRIME  
This book documents the criminal investigation of the March 1997 shooting death of an off-duty member of the Los Angeles Police Department by a fellow officer. The investigation steers detective Russell Poole into a complicated inquiry, with connections to the hip-hop music industry, and leads him to discoveries of police corruption. Sullivan (journalist, *Rolling Stone*) does an excellent job of guiding the reader through the intricate chain of events and along the way intersperses mini-lessons on the history of hip-hop culture and music and gang rivalries. He also reveals interesting insights into the backgrounds of the major players, connecting this scandal to the world of some of the biggest rap stars. Sullivan includes supplementary material that is of great help to the reader: a "roster" of the protagonists and their affiliations and a time line that includes all major events (from 1987 to June 2001) mentioned in the book. An excellent selection for all public libraries, especially those with clientele interested in true crime and/or hip-hop music.—*Sarah Jent, Univ. of Louisville, KY*

## Political Science

**Bruni, Frank. *Ambling into History: The Unlikely Odyssey of George W. Bush.***

HarperCollins. Mar. 2002. c.288p. ISBN 0-06-621371-1. \$23.95. POLITICS  
Respected *New York Times* reporter Bruni, who covered the Bush campaign in 2000, brings insight, wit, and intelligence to this effort to understand the makeup and character of the 43rd President of the United States. While this is a campaign chronicle, it is also an attempt to get to the roots of who George W. Bush is and the President he is becoming. Bruni portrays Bush as a more complex and contradictory man than he appears on the surface, with unrecognized strengths and obvious limitations. No intellectual. Bush is presented as a man of quirky intelligence with a capacity for

applying his core values to problems but whose misuse of language and repeated malapropisms (e.g., Bush's saying that he sympathizes with the difficulties some Americans face in trying "to put food on your family") gives the impression of a man lost in the world of ideas. Full of insider stories from the campaign, this book will likely become one of the earliest available keys in deciphering the true character of George W. Bush.—*Michael A. Genovese, Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles*

**Clancy, Tom with Gen. Carl Stiner (ret.). *Shadow Warriors: Inside the Special Forces.***

Putnam. 2002. c.560p. permanent paper. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-399-14783-7. \$29.95. MILITARY STUDIES  
The fluid mission of Special Operations has always made the regular military hierarchy nervous. It feared that, without traditional military statements of purpose or charts of organization, units like the Green Berets or Navy SEALs would become competitors to the standard forces. History has proved that fear unfounded. A few highly trained soldiers dropped far behind enemy lines to organize local resistance, improve working conditions, provide surveillance, attack targets, and in essence project force far from other forces have been providing military support in pinpoint operations all over the world for almost half a century. Today, these forces operate in numerous places both publicized and not. Clancy's rambling and informal history of the U.S. Special Operations Command (SOC) governing these forces is the result of collaboration with Stiner, SOC's former commander in chief. Inevitably, this book is partly a war story, but it is also a substantial history, with a few revelations of Special Forces action in places like Panama, Iraq, Somalia, and Vietnam. Clancy has turned his prodigious output to documenting the new face of war making, and for students of the military, this book is welcome. The story of the efforts behind modern headline events will have to wait. [Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 10/1/01.]—*Mel D. Lane, Sacramento*

**Cruse, Harold. *The Essential Harold Cruse: A Reader.***

Palgrave: St. Martin's. 2002. c.336p. ed. by William J. Cobb. index. LC 2001048212. ISBN 0-312-29396-8. \$19.95. POLITICS  
Editor Cobb (visiting assistant professor, history, Spelman Coll.) here offers essential reading for anyone interested in black politics and culture. Cruse is known mostly for his classic text, *The Crisis of the Negro Intellectual*, and his anti-integrationist and black nationalist views. His writings are respectful of some of America's greatest thinkers and cultural workers, e.g., James