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Book Review of 'Inventing Al Gore: A Biography,' by Bill Turque

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Genovese, Michael A., "Book Review of 'Inventing Al Gore: A Biography,' by Bill Turque" (2000). *Political Science and International Relations Faculty Works*. 101.

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SOCIAL SCIENCES

sober-minded work for their collections on the South China Sea region. Not recommended.—*James Holmes, Fletcher Sch. of Law and Diplomacy, Belmont, MA*

Taymor, Betty. **Running Against the Wind: The Struggle of Women in Massachusetts Politics.**

Northeastern Univ. May 2000. c.207p. illus. index. ISBN 1-55553-435-X. \$26.95. POLITICS

Taymor is the founder and former director of the Program for Women in Politics and Government, which was based at Boston College for over 20 years. She started in the heady world of Massachusetts politics in the 1950s, helping to form a Democratic party organization in Newton. This memoir recounts her political activity behind the scenes in party politics for the rest of the century. Her focus, however, has consistently been to obtain more acceptance for women at all levels of Massachusetts government, and the undercurrent of the narrative describes the numerous hurdles along the way while also profiling such Massachusetts pols as Tip O'Neill, Mike Dukakis, and Louise Day Hicks. With the emphasis on local politics and government, the book is an optional choice for Massachusetts libraries' women's studies and political science collections.—*Jill Ormer, SILS, SUNY at Buffalo Libs.*

Turque, Bill. **Inventing Al Gore: A Biography.**

Houghton. Mar. 2000. c.432p. bibliog. index. LC 99-058523. ISBN 0-395-88323-7. \$25. POLITICS

'Tis the season for campaign biographies. Some are hit pieces, others shameless promotions of a candidate. Rare is the serious effort to describe and understand a candidate and what has shaped and motivated him or her. Turque, a Washington correspondent for *Newsweek* magazine, has attempted such a biography. He sees much of Gore's public life as an effort "to convince the world, and perhaps himself, that he is his own man." Under the strong influence of his politically successful father, then as the understudy to President Clinton, Gore keeps trying to burst out of the shadow and emerge as an independent person and leader. Turque sees Gore as "at home with ideas but deeply wary of people, religious

but possessed of an equally abiding faith in the blessings of science and technology, protective of his family's privacy yet willing to exploit personal tragedies for political gain. His carefully tended Dudley Do-Right image obscures a keen and sometimes ruthlessly competitive nature." This book is likely to attract a strong readership as one of the few serious books on Al Gore to date. Well written and informative, it captures a good deal of the inventing of this politician.—*Michael A. Genovese, Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles*

Understanding Contemporary Middle East.

Lynne Rienner. Mar. 2000. c.424p. ed. by Deborah J. Gerner. LC 99-37486. ISBN 1-55587-706-0. \$55; pap. ISBN 1-55587-725-7. \$22. INT. AFFAIRS

The prevailing Western image of the Middle East has been shaped primarily by media reporting of what seems to be incessant conflicts and violence in the region. Historical encounters between Western colonialism and Middle Eastern peoples have also contributed to the persistence of negative images of both Islam and the Middle East in the West. The editor, a political scientist and Middle East specialist at the University of Kansas, has put together a superb and engaging book profiling the region through politics, society, history, literature, geography, architecture, economics, anthropology, women's studies, religion, and international relations. The contributors to this multidimensional volume seek to counter stereotypes by offering informed analyses of all facets of the Middle East along political, cultural, and religious lines. This unique volume is one of the few truly interdisciplinary books about the contemporary Middle East. It is an ideal textbook for undergraduate courses on the Middle East as well as being suitable for general readers interested in the region. Highly recommended for both academic and public libraries.—*Nader Entessar, Spring Hill Coll., Mobile, AL*

Psychology

Ciaramicoli, Arthur P. **The Power of Empathy: A Practical Guide to Creating Intimacy, Self-Understanding, and Lasting Love in Your Life.**

Dutton. Apr. 2000. c.288p. permanent paper. index. ISBN 0-525-94511-3. \$24.95. PSYCH

When Ciaramicoli (psychology, Harvard) was finishing his doctorate in clinical psychology, his younger brother, David, killed himself. Years later, Ciaramicoli realized that what his brother needed more than love was empathy. Unlike other psychologists writing for a popular audience, Ciaramicoli, also a private practice therapist, doesn't leave a lot of white space or use bulleted lists. Instead, he offers quite a

thoughtful and rather philosophical treatise on how empathy can be used to deepen relationships. He pulls something else unusual in the genre, too: while arguing that empathy has great healing power, he acknowledges that it also has a "dark side"—which Hitler exploited, as does anyone who uses other peoples' weaknesses against them. To prove his points, Ciaramicoli provides many examples from his practice, his personal life, and even clinical research. Public libraries that have patrons who are willing to go a little deeper than those pop-psych, bulleted-list books will definitely want to buy a copy of this book.—*Pamela A. Matthews, Gettysburg Coll. Lib., PA*

Glasser, William, M.D.

Reality Therapy in Action.

HarperCollins. 2000. 256p. index. ISBN 0-06-019535-5. \$23. PSYCH

Glasser, the father of choice theory, has created a case studies manual to accompany *Choice Theory: A New Psychology of Personal Freedom* and *The Language of Choice Theory*. Composites of clients and segments of Glasser's individual sessions are the basis of each chapter. Highlighted are the critical interactions between therapist and client and the application of useful techniques in reality therapy. Glasser believes that people choose destructive behavior to reduce the pain of unsatisfying relationships. Reality therapy aims to bring about awareness that behavior, or "external control psychology," is a personal choice and not a biochemical impulse or mental illness beyond a person's control. Readers will understand how Glasser's theory can be used to help people make better choices. In this age of managed care, where restrictions on the number of visits limit the use of psychotherapy, reality therapy might be a better alternative to expensive psychiatric drugs. Recommended for academic and medical libraries.—*Paula N. Arnold, Brighton, MA*

hooks, bell. **All About Love:**

New Visions.

Morrow. 2000. c.240p. ISBN 0-688-16844-2. \$22. PSYCH

This is a serious look at love from the author of *Remembered Rapture*. It is a theme hooks (English, CUNY) has visited a few times before. In *Killing Rage*, she called for a "beloved community in which loving ties of care and knowing bind us together in our differences," she struggled to belong in *Bone Black*, and in *Wounds of Passion* she continued her quest for love and acceptance. In these essays, she offers myriad ways in which to think about love, beginning with a look at childhood (where we first learn about this emotion), with a focus on how parents abuse and neglect their children. She then turns her attention to lying, pointing out that men lie to get "power," while women do so to pretend

REVIEWERS NEEDED

Readers interested in reviewing books on international affairs and diplomacy, especially in the Middle East and the Balkans, should send a resume and two sample reviews to Nathan Ward, LJ, 245 W. 17th St., New York, NY 10011; FAX (212) 463-6734; e-mail nward@lj.cahners.com.