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## Book Review of ' Fraud of the Century: Rutherford B. Hayes, Samuel Tilden, and the Stolen Election of 1876' by Roy Morris Jr.

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## SOCIAL SCIENCES

and *Saboteurs* and David A. Kahn's *Hitler's Spies: German Military Intelligence of World War II*. Recommended for strong World War II history collections.—*Elizabeth Morris, formerly with Otsego Dist. P.L., MI*

### Grant, R.G. **Flight: 100 Years of Aviation.**

DK. 2002. c.440p. photogs. index. glossary. ISBN 0-7894-8910-4. \$50. HIST  
This sweeping compendium of milestones in 20th-century aviation history is published in association with the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, which may account for its rigorous attention to detail. Grant (*The Berlin Wall*) offers a wealth of supportive information to complement his engagingly written text. Succinct offset biographies sketch the lives and contributions of aviation's pioneers (both men and women), scientists, promoters, businessmen, barnstormers, racers, designers and manufacturers, aces (from World War I to Vietnam), and astronauts and cosmonauts. Fascinating sidebars also treat early flight, assorted inventions, famous air races (1910–39), the gradual transformation of the role of the fighter pilot, the evolution of aerial weaponry, training programs, navigational technology, aerial exploration, landmark altitude and long-distance flights, Zepelin travel, power plants, Hitler's jet and rocket programs, the breaking of the sound barrier, the Cold War space race, and America's current shuttle program. The impressive illustrations include over 300 gorgeous, full-color profiles of the world's major military and civilian aircraft and space vehicles. The result is a work of greater overall scope and depth than Bill Gunston's *Aviation: The First 100 Years*. Highly recommended for all military, aviation, and transportation collections and public libraries.—*John Carver Edwards, Univ. of Georgia Libs., Cleveland*

### James, Lawrence. **Warrior Race: A History of the British at War.**

St. Martin's. Feb. 2003. c.864p. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-312-30737-3. \$35. HIST

Drawing on an extensive range of resources, James (*The Rise and Fall of the British Empire*) offers a graphic—if somewhat anecdotal—account of the British experience of war from the time of the Roman occupation to World War II. The author presents a two-part thesis. First, he argues that until modern times, Britain's fleet and armies were led by representatives of a ruling class that drew political and territorial power from carefully tended chivalric concepts blended with "Christian ideals of social responsibility and Renaissance notions of virtue." He then contends that in the 20th century, the economic, political, social, and psychological repercus-

sions of the two world wars have not only "impoverished and shaken" the British spirit but also done much to reveal "an astonishing tenacity and intensity of purpose" in the national character. Unfortunately, the very breadth of this massive survey results in truncated and sometimes facile history (e.g., James uses D.H. Lawrence's fictional gamekeeper, Mellors—commissioned from the ranks after the heavy losses of 1918—to exemplify the growing number of officers coming from working- and lower-middle-class backgrounds). Still, the carefully documented resources at the back of the book may well be worth the price of admission. Recommended for larger public libraries and all military collections.—*Robert C. Jones, formerly with Central Missouri State Univ., Warrensburg*

### Milton, Giles. **Samurai William: The Englishman Who Opened Japan.**

Farrar. Jan. 2003. c.368p. illus. maps. index. LC 2002072362. ISBN 0-374-25385-4. \$24. HIST

In 1600, the dawn of the modern world, when overseas journeys were measured in months and even years, William Adams (1564–1620), an English mariner of humble origins, washed up on the shores of Japan with a band of his fellows. Through a combination of skill, native wit, guile, and good luck, Adams became the confidant of Tokugawa Ieyasu, the powerful warlord who founded modern Japan. Milton (*Nathaniel's Nutmeg*) places Adams at the center of this rollicking popular history of early European intercourse, in all the senses of that term, with a Japanese society in many respects far more cultured and civilized than Europe. This rowdy and riveting tale is peopled with a large and colorful cast of European merchant adventurers, rogues, and miscreants who sought fame and fortune in the service of the British East India Company and like enterprises. Milton is a gifted storyteller with an eye for the graphic, often gruesome, detail. This is the kind of page turner that will keep you up way past your bedtime. For all libraries.—*Steven I. Levine, Univ. of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*

### ★Minutaglio, Bill. **City on Fire.**

HarperCollins. Jan. 2003. c.304p. permanent paper. photogs. ISBN 0-06-018541-4. \$24.95. HIST

On April 16, 1947, two huge explosions rocked the port city of Texas City, TX, killing 600 people, injuring thousands more, leveling houses and buildings, and soaking the landscape with toxic chemicals. Cold War sabotage was initially suspected, but the true culprit was a shipment of ammonium nitrate, a chemical that can be a fertilizer or a deadly explosive. The chemical was being manufactured and shipped by the government with no warn-

ing label or instructions for safe handling. Angry at this negligence, attorney Russel Markwell brought the first-ever civil class action suit against the U.S. government under the Federal Tort Claims Act and won. Though the victory was overturned on appeal as a dangerous precedent, the government's responsibility wasn't in doubt. Over two thirds of the book is a poignant present-tense account of the hours before, during, and after the explosion, bringing to life the horror, pain, and bravery of the people of Texas City. The account of the lawsuit is secondary, as it should be. This terrible story deserves this passionate retelling. For all collections.—*Deirdre Bray Root, Middletown P.L., OH*

### ★Morris, Roy, Jr. **Fraud of the Century: Rutherford B. Hayes, Samuel Tilden, and the Stolen Election of 1876.**

S. & S. Feb. 2003. c.352p. bibliog. ISBN 0-7432-2386-1. \$27. HIST

Having endured the long national nightmare of the 2000 presidential election and its aftermath, readers may find it hard to imagine any election more bizarre and problematic. But the 1876 election was even stranger, and historian Morris (*The Better Angel: Walt Whitman in the Civil War*) does an excellent job of bringing to life this peculiar election (which he calls "one of the most brazen political thefts in American history"). Charges of vote fraud and disputed ballots in several Southern states caused the creation of a special election commission to decide the eventual winner, and a series of intrigues large and small marred the process that eventually put Rutherford B. Hayes into the White House (Ruther F-R-A-U-D, his critics called him thereafter), ended Reconstruction in this country, and cost Samuel Tilden the office he probably rightfully won. Morris has an eye for detail and a lively writing style that make this highly detailed, first-rate work of history read more like a whodunnit than a historical examination.—*Michael A. Genovese, Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles*

Patenaude, Bertrand M.

### **The Big Show in Bololand: The American Relief Expedition to Soviet Russia in the Famine of 1921.**

Stanford Univ. 2002. 790p. permanent paper. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-8047-4467-X. \$70; pap. ISBN 0-8047-4493-9. \$29.95. HIST

America's initial exposure to Russia's Socialist/Communist experiment came partly through Herbert Hoover's American Relief Agency (ARA), which supported relief efforts in Europe after the Great War. In 1921, the ARA responded to an appeal from Soviet Russia, which was undergoing a horrific famine. (*Bolo* was the not-so-affectionate term given to the Bolsheviks by ARA men.) Patenaude (history, Stan-