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Book Review of 'First Son: George W. Bush and the Bush Family Dynasty,' by Bill Minutaglio

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SOCIAL SCIENCES

gy this year, make it this one. Astrologer Miller and Brown, coauthor with Miller of *Shaken Not Stirred: A Celebration of the Martini*, give the history of the six major astrological systems indicated in the subtitle, which have never before been compared in book form. The authors provide a broad overview of how these systems have developed and how results are derived from them, discussing nuances such as exoteric vs. esoteric astrology and the differences between the topical and sidereal zodiacs. Detailed chart-making instructions are included, with brief interpretive devices. Instructions are complete enough for readers to construct their own charts, and examples help in navigating the mazes of tables and mathematical equations involved in chart-making. A glossary of the vocabulary involved with each system is included. Unequaled in comprehensiveness, this book is highly recommended.—*Marija Sanderling, Rochester P.L., NH*

Political Science

The Clinton Legacy.

Chatham, dist. by Devin-Adair. 1999. 416p. ed. by Colin Campbell & Bert A. Rockman. ISBN 1-889119-14-8. \$24.95. POLITICS

Rating presidents appeals to the sporting instinct of Americans, who are always on the lookout for a comer in the political arena. This volume marks the second effort by Campbell (public policy, Georgetown) and Rockman (political science, Univ. of Pittsburgh) to evaluate the Clinton presidency (their first was *The Clinton Presidency: First Appraisals*, LJ 10/15/95). Here, 15 political scientists contribute essays on Clinton's impact on campaigning, political parties, legislation, the courts, administration, interest groups, domestic policy, and foreign policy. The unsurprising findings are that, in the end, partisanship trumped policy, personality triumphed over principles, and the Clinton legacy may be minimal. Aimed at political scientists, this volume will satisfy Clinton's opponents and seem too critical for supporters. Nonetheless, it is the first book to evaluate the two terms of America's first baby-boomer president. Recommended for academic libraries.—*William D. Pederson, Louisiana State Univ., Shreveport*

Janeway, Michael. Republic of Denial: Press, Politics, and Public Life.

Yale Univ. Oct. 1999. c.204p. permanent paper. index. ISBN 0-300-08123-5. \$22.50. POLITICS

"Politics in the United States today is almost universally disdained for falsity and shrillness. The media in the United States are widely condemned for bad practices and attitudes," writes Janeway in the opening sentence of this thoughtful analysis of the

relationship among the press, the political process, and the public interest. Examining the reasons for this disdain, Janeway (journalism, Columbia Univ.), a former editor of the *Boston Globe* and the *Atlantic Monthly*, warns that Americans are in "a democratic crisis in a republic of denial." He focuses here on the print media but also looks at the impact that broadcast media (particularly round-the-clock coverage and "tabloid TV") have had on news delivery. He also describes questionable business practices that have eroded some media independence and integrity. Readable and well documented, this work is recommended for public libraries and highly recommended for political science and communication collections in academic libraries.—*Jill Orner, SILS, SUNY at Buffalo*

Lin, Min with Maria Galikowski.

The Search for Modernity: Chinese Intellectuals and Cultural Discourse in the Post-Mao Era.

St. Martin's. Oct. 1999. c.304p. bibliog. index. LC 99-20105. ISBN 0-312-21758-7. \$49.95. INT AFFAIRS

Lin and Galikowski, respected China scholars teaching in New Zealand, present a balanced overview of the unprecedented diversity, independence, and cosmopolitanism of the Chinese intellectual scene since the death of Mao Zedong in 1976. Although their writing sometimes falls into jargon and necessarily goes into technical detail, this important analysis will attract readers looking for a follow-up to earlier studies of political thought, such as Merle Goldman's *Sowing the Seeds of Democracy in China* (LJ 3/1/94), or the cultural scene, such as Orville Schell's *Discos and Democracy* (LJ 5/15/88. o.p.). In a linked series of individual studies, the authors show how philosophers such as Li Zehou, writers such as Wang Meng, poets such as Bei Dao, and religious thinkers reinterpret and synthesize a range of traditional Western thinkers, Confucian tradition, and contemporary culture theory. They argue that this vigorous new discourse provided the intellectual foundation for the success of Deng Xiaoping's reforms and that this discourse embodies and critiques modernity in a way worthy of global notice.—*Charles Hayford, Harvard Univ. Summer Sch.*

★Lloyd, Anthony. My War Gone By, I Miss It So.

Grove/Atlantic. Jan. 2000. c.336p. ISBN 0-87113-769-0. \$25. INT AFFAIRS

Lloyd, a war correspondent for the *Times* of London and a former British army officer, recounts his experiences as an independent journalist in embattled Bosnia-Herzegovina. Reared on his family's tradition of military glory and impelled by drug dependence, he sought the "high" of battle in the only war available. The stark,

often lyrical quality of his prose accentuates the surreal atmosphere of wartime in Bosnia, "a playground where the worst and most fantastic excesses of the human mind were acted on." Lloyd's account blends personal revelation with biting commentary on diplomacy and war. By turns horrifying, contemplative, and savagely funny, this memoir captures the peculiar ferocity of ethnic and religious civil strife. Particular targets of his scorn are the UN and European officials whose indecisiveness and moral relativism inhibited an effective response to the slaughter. This unforgettable work ranks with the great modern accounts of war and should be in every library.—*James Holmes, Fletcher Sch. of Law & Diplomacy, Medford, MA*

Minutaglio, Bill. First Son: George W. Bush and the Bush Family Dynasty.

Times Bks. Oct. 1999. c.320p. permanent paper. index. LC 99-16462. ISBN 0-8129-3139-4. \$25. POLITICS

Veteran Texas journalist Minutaglio has written the first extensive political biography of Gov. George W. Bush, the leading contender for the Republican presidential nomination in 2000. The author traces the Bush family history from Prescott to George to First Son. This family dynasty has been of great assistance to George W., as he is called, in his rise in business and politics. While giving surprisingly little attention to George W.'s performance as governor of Texas (a serious flaw), the author focuses on his development as a young man and emergence into the national political limelight. Like the senior Bush, George W. has ample experience, but he has left few footprints along the way. This self-styled "compassionate conservative" seems more the pragmatic conservative, fashioning his message to fit the needs of the moment. Here, Minutaglio presents a positively Clintonesque portrait of a perpetual politician with few core beliefs but a knack for getting elected. A very important book that may be more in demand as primaries near.—*Michael A. Genovese, Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles*

Schieber, Sylvester J. & John B. Shoven. The Real Deal: The History and Future of Social Security.

Yale Univ. Oct. 1999. c.440p. permanent paper. illus. index. ISBN 0-300-08148-0. \$45; pap. ISBN 0-300-08149-9. \$18.95. POLITICS

The 2000 elections will inevitably present the public with another opportunity to hear all the candidates offer various and contradictory solutions for saving Social Security. But it's difficult for the average person to sort through the proposals or to understand the dimensions of the problem. This book is a wonderful primer on these issues. Schieber (vice president, Watson Wyatt Worldwide) and Shoven (eco-