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Book Review of "Gerald Ford and the Challenges of the 1970s," by Yanek Mieczkowski

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in their ability to alter their personalities and sense of right and wrong to match those of the criminals they are attempting to bring to justice. Queen was a Vietnam veteran who had worked undercover as an Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms operative, but his previous experiences were no match for his assignment to infiltrate the vicious Mongols motorcycle gang, a California-based gang involved in drugs, stolen motorcycles, weapons traffic, and murder. Queen, a motorcycle enthusiast, used his training and courage to attain high rank in the Mongols and, after a long and difficult period, see most of them arrested. The author admits that at times he felt strong emotional ties with many of these extremely violent men, and the reader gets caught up in the self-doubt that seems endemic to undercover work. The rough language, constant drinking, and violence may put off some readers but are a natural part of this story. Suitable for comprehensive criminal justice collections in academic libraries and for public libraries.—**John R. Vallely, Siena Coll. Lib., Loudonville, NY**

POLITICAL SCIENCE

★ **Johnson, Chris & Jolyon Leslie.**

Afghanistan: The Mirage of Peace. Zed, dist. by St. Martin's. Mar. 2005. c.256p. illus. index. ISBN 1-84277-377-1. \$22.50.

INT AFFAIRS

In this informative and readable book, the authors, who have had years of experience working in Afghanistan at the grass-roots level, provide bottom-up coverage of the country's myriad political and socioeconomic problems. Ever the battleground of power politics, the country was most recently traumatized by the Soviet invasion and occupation, which transformed society and destroyed the country's already fragile sociopolitical institutions. Then, in the last gasp of the Cold War, the United States and its regional allies abetted the development of anti-Soviet fighters, who eventually managed to force the Soviet Union out of the country. Finally, the U.S. invasion and occupation of Afghanistan, launched in the aftermath of 9/11 to punish the ruling Taliban movement, which had harbored al Qaeda, has led to further instability. This book deftly shows why the West's failure to understand Afghanistan has exacerbated its problems and why peace remains an illusion. Highly recommended for academic and public libraries.—**Nader Entessar, Spring Hill Coll., Mobile, AL**

Lukacs, John. Democracy and Populism: Fear & Hatred. Yale Univ. Mar. 2005. c.272p. index. ISBN 0-300-10773-0. \$25. POL SCI

This is the ninth book from Lukacs (*The Hitler of History*) in the past ten years, a decade's work

representing less than half of the lifetime output of this eminent historian. A list that long is bound to have its highs and lows, and this "small and surely imprecise jeremiad," as Lukacs himself describes it, is not one of the highs. The book, a collection of brief, loosely connected historical essays on political systems and ideologies in the West over the past two centuries, offers reflections on liberalism, conservatism, progressivism, totalitarianism, socialism, and other forms of government. By turns illuminating and idiosyncratic, learned and pedantic, these reflections lead to dark conclusions on the devolution of liberal democracy into a shallow populism infused with nationalism. Lukacs offers a strong dissenting voice in today's political discourse, but this frustrating study, while necessary for research libraries, is optional for all others.—**Robert F. Nardini, Chichester, NH**

Mieczkowski, Yanek. Gerald Ford and the Challenges of the 1970s. Univ. Pr. of Kentucky. Apr. 2005. c.456p. photogs. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-8131-2349-6. \$39.95. POLITICS

Gerald Ford does not rate very highly in the eyes of presidential historians or political scientists, usually ranking somewhere in the "average" category. This ambitious work by Mieczkowski (history, Dowling Coll.) calls for a reexamination of the Ford presidency in light of the formidable challenges he faced upon taking office. In the aftermath of the Watergate crisis, Ford, an unelected President, faced runaway inflation, a crisis in confidence in the government, energy shortages at home, troubles abroad, and a political situation in which he was attacked from the left by the Democrats and the right by the emerging Reagan wing of the Republican Party. It was in many ways a no-win situation. Fair-minded and thorough, Mieczkowski makes a fine (if not wholly convincing) case for a more positive evaluation of Ford. The result is a welcome and important addition to the literature on the Ford presidency. Recommended for all libraries.—**Michael A. Genovese, Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles**

PSYCHOLOGY

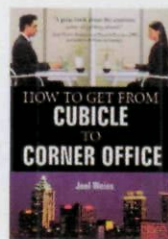
Berlinger, Norman T., M.D. Rescuing Your Teenager from Depression. HarperResource: HarperCollins. Apr. 2005. c.304p. index. ISBN 0-06-056720-1. \$24.95.

Machoian, Lisa. The Disappearing Girl: Learning the Language of Teenage Depression. Dutton. Apr. 2005. c.288p. bibliog. ISBN 0-525-94866-X. \$24.95.

PSYCH

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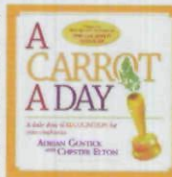
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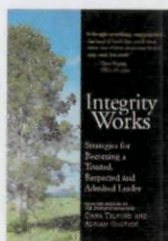
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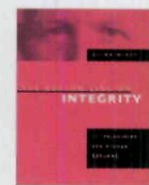


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