



Digital Commons@

Loyola Marymount University
LMU Loyola Law School

Political Science Faculty Works

Political Science

2004

Book Review of "High Noon in the Cold War: Kennedy, Khrushchev, and the Cuban Missile Crisis," by Max Frankel

Michael A. Genovese

Loyola Marymount University, mgenovese@lmu.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/poli_fac



Part of the [Political Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Genovese, M. A. (2004). High Noon in the Cold War: Kennedy, Khrushchev, and the Cuban Missile Crisis (Book). Library Journal, 129(16), 93–94.

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the Political Science at Digital Commons @ Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. It has been accepted for inclusion in Political Science Faculty Works by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Loyola Marymount University and Loyola Law School. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@lmu.edu.

while this is not an engaging cover-to-cover read, it will be useful to readers trying to understand a policy they own or one they contemplate purchasing. Recommended for public libraries where there is interest in self-help consumer titles.—Joan Pedzich, Harris Beach LLP, Rochester, NY

HISTORY

★ **BALLARD, MICHAEL B.** *Vicksburg: The Campaign That Opened the Mississippi.* Univ. of North Carolina. Oct. 2004. c.576p. illus. maps. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-8078-2893-9. \$39.95. HIST

Coordinator of the political research center at Mississippi State University, Ballard (*A Long Shadow: Jefferson Davis and the Final Days of the Confederacy*) analyzes the various stages of the Vicksburg siege and capture from the "new" military history perspective. The author uses firsthand accounts from the city's citizens, command structure, and soldiers to address the political, socioeconomic, and military implications of the Vicksburg campaign, also offering a thorough examination of guerrilla warfare in the region. Ballard contends that Vicksburg, strategically located near the Mississippi, was central to the Union's gaining control of the Western theater but that it has been overshadowed in historical importance by the Battle of Gettysburg. Although the author's primary and secondary research is meticulous, readers should also consult Shelby Foote's *The Beleaguered City: The Vicksburg Campaign, December 1862–July 1863* and William L. Shea and Terrence Winschel's *Vicksburg Is the Key: The Struggle for the Mississippi River*, for specific details concerning strategic and tactical operations during the campaign. Highly recommended for academic libraries and Civil War historians.—Gayla Koerting, Univ. of South Dakota Lib., Vermillion

BOYLE, KEVIN. *Arc of Justice: A Saga of Race, Civil Rights, and Murder in the Jazz Age.* Holt. 2004. c.384p. illus. index. ISBN 0-8050-7145-8. \$26. HIST

Detroit native Boyle (history, Ohio State Univ.) re-creates the racial thinking and tensions that produced the politics, prosecution, and personal tragedy of *People v. Ossian Sweet*. The 1925 Michigan murder case tried a black physician for shooting and killing a white man in a mob trying to run him out of the home he and his wife had just bought in a previously all-white neighborhood just outside Detroit. Against images of a 10,000-strong KKK rally on Detroit's west side, Boyle makes the Sweet episode a tableau for U.S. justice and race relations. He sketches the time, the place,

and the major players, from Sweet to local politicians in a hot mayoral race to NAACP leaders, who hired legendary trial lawyer Clarence Darrow and cast Sweet as a symbol in a crusade against residential racial segregation. This fact-filled, people-focused, readable work complements the growing literature on race in Detroit (e.g., Phyllis Vine's *One Man's Castle: Clarence Darrow and the Defense of the American Dream*) and in 20th-century U.S. urban development.—Thomas J. Davis, Arizona State Univ., Tempe

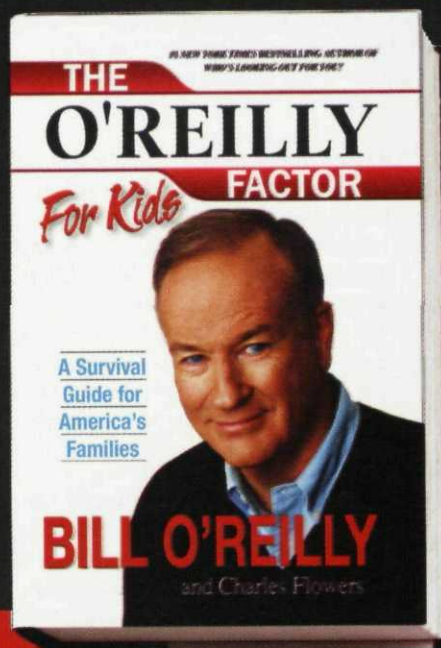
★ **FRANKEL, MAX.** *High Noon in the Cold War: Kennedy, Khrushchev, and the Cuban Missile Crisis.* Presidio: Ballantine. Oct. 2004. c.224p. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-345-46505-9. \$23.95. HIST

Much has been written about the Cuban Missile Crisis of October 1962, when the United States and Soviet Union clashed over construction of Soviet nuclear missile bases in Cuba. Frankel, former *New York Times* reporter, Washington, DC, bureau chief, editorial page editor, and executive

From the #1 cable news talk show host and
New York Times bestselling author

IN-YOUR-FACE ISSUES AND ANSWERS!

BILL O'REILLY SOUNDS OFF ON REAL-LIFE CHALLENGES.



**THE O'REILLY
FACTOR FOR KIDS**
puts sex, drugs,
alcohol, bullies,
money, parents,
politics, and other
hot-button topics
into focus.

ISBN 0-06-054424-4
\$22.95 (\$32.50 Can.)
208 pages

ALSO AVAILABLE FROM
HarperAudio

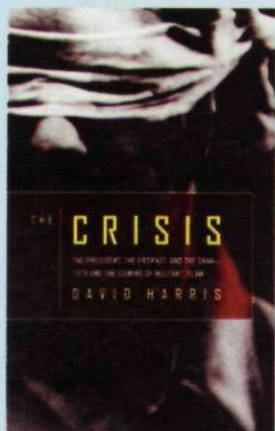
HarperEntertainment
An Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers
www.HarperAcademic.com

At 25: 444 Days in Iran

FARBER, DAVID. *Taken Hostage: The Iran Hostage Crisis and America's First Encounter with Radical Islam.* Princeton Univ. (Politics & Society in Twentieth-Century America). Nov. 2004. c.208p. index. ISBN 0-691-11916-3. \$22.95.

HARRIS, DAVID. *The Crisis: The President, the Prophet, and the Shah; 1979 and the Coming of Militant Islam.* Little, Brown. Oct. 2004. c.432p. ISBN 0-316-32394-2. \$26.95. HIST

Twenty-five years later, there is renewed interest in the 444-day Iran hostage crisis, this country's first violent contact with a resurgent Islam. Farber (history, Temple Univ.) examines the context of the times, reviewing the history of American involvement with Iran and the growth of the anti-shah/anti-Western Muslim movement. The administration was desperately hoping that the revolutionaries



would see their common interests and settle things, but the Khomeini regime was getting too much mileage from the crisis. President Carter seemed just as clueless as anyone else about what to do; only National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski gets favorable treatment from the author, who is not encouraged by our government's recent policy decisions in the Middle East. (Index not seen.)

Investigative reporter Harris, while providing

some necessary background, focuses on the day-to-day details of the crisis. Drawing on extensive interviews and published memoirs, he tells his story through the actions and thoughts of individuals more than official documents. The negotiations with Tehran were lengthy and complex, and here the frustration of American officials is palpable. What deserves even more research is the political situation in Iran at the time. The key irritant seems to have been the continued American devotion to the shah; if he could have been quickly dropped by Washington, perhaps this crisis could have been avoided. These two complementary books, one on the big picture and the other on the human element, are definitely suitable for patrons of both public and academic libraries.—Daniel K. Blewett, Coll. of DuPage Lib., Glen Ellyn, IL

"Plan de San Diego," was in reality a successful operation by Mexican President Carranza to gain diplomatic recognition by the United States. Previous accounts have paid little attention to this decade and tend to be pro- or anti-Ranger, and Robert Utley's more balanced *Lone Star Justice* unfortunately ends in 1910. Therefore, this balanced and well-written account is recommended for all libraries in Texas as well as Western collections.—Stephen H. Peters, Northern Michigan Univ. Lib., Marquette

KOVEN, SETH. *Slumming: Sexual Politics in Victorian London.* Princeton. 2004. c.368p. illus. maps. ISBN 0-691-11592-3. \$29.95. HIST

Koven (history, Villanova Univ.) here contributes a significant study of the history of slumming (the Victorian fashion of wealthy Londoners taking guided tours of the city's slums) that illuminates the complicated relationships between London's rich and poor from the mid-1800s to the start of World War I. He meticulously discusses the complex ways in which politics and erotics, altruism, and social and sexual attitudes interacted over those years to influence contemporary British culture and the 20th-century welfare state. Koven compares and contrasts the variety of social-welfare institutions established, both religious and secular, and the not always subtle differences between the activities of male and female Londoners of various backgrounds, education, professions, and sexual orientation when dealing with urban poverty and a down-and-out citizenry. This thoughtful, cogent, and copiously referenced work is highly recommended for an academic and interested adult audience.—Suzanne W. Wood, emerita, SUNY Coll. of Technology, Alfred

LAMBERT, KATHERINE. *The Longest Winter: The Incredible Survival of Captain Scott's Lost Party.* Smithsonian. Oct. 2004. c.240p. photos. index. ISBN 1-58834-195-X. \$24.95. HIST

In 1912, Capt. Robert Scott mounted a two-pronged Antarctic scientific expedition. Scott and his party would sledge to the South Pole and back, while a Northern party would spend the summer exploring the coast. Things went wrong, and Scott's party perished, a familiar story made more poignant by Roald Amundsen's beating Scott to the pole and returning safely. The drama of Scott's fate has eclipsed the equally grueling ordeal of the Northern party, which was stranded by bad weather and had to survive seven months of the Antarctic winter on what they had brought with them for the summer months. Lambert has used the

editor (1986–94), employs his considerable skill as a writer and his experience as a journalist who covered the crisis to weave a fascinating and informative reexamination of the famous "13 days." Arguing that "for the most part, we remember it wrong," Frankel concludes that rather than dangerous brinksmanship, "it is clear that Khrushchev and Kennedy were effectively deterred by their fear of war.... In the end, both were ready to betray important allies, resist the counsel of chafing military commanders, and endure political humiliation to find a way out of the crisis." Frankel concludes that "two responsible and highly intelligent men were firmly in charge of both governments and they were determined to avoid war, certainly a nuclear war." A fine book, well written and engaging, this is an important addition to the literature of the Cold War and the Cuban Missile Crisis.—Michael A. Genovese, Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles

HARRIS, CHARLES H. & LOUIS R. SADLER. *The Texas Rangers and the Mexican Revolution: The Bloodiest Decade, 1910–1920.* Univ. of New Mexico. 2004. c.576p. photos. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-8263-3483-0. \$37.50. HIST

The decade 1910–20 was a pivotal one for the Texas Rangers, who had to deal with not only the usual rustlers and smugglers but also with border unrest due to the Mexican Revolution, a penurious state legislature, and the added responsibilities brought about by World War I. Using a wide variety of archival sources, including FBI and army records, New Mexico State history professors Harris and Sadler recount how these many factors impacted the Rangers, separating out as much as possible what the Rangers did as opposed to what others claimed they did. They make a convincing argument that the key event of the decade, the border war supposedly growing out of a Hispanic uprising based on the