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2000

## Book Review of "Presidential Greatness" by Marc Landy and Sidney M. Milkis

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### Recommended Citation

Genovese, M. A. (2000). Presidential Greatness (Book Review). *Library Journal*, 125(2), 104.

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## SOCIAL SCIENCES

Democrats will be gleeful; recommended (purchase "liberally") for public libraries.—*Karl Helicher, Upper Merion Twp. Lib., King of Prussia, PA*

**Dunn, Charles W. *The Scarlet Thread of Scandal: Morality and the Presidency.***

Rowman & Littlefield, 2000. c.200p. permanent paper. bibliog. index. LC 99-41042. ISBN 0-8476-9606-5. \$24.95.

**Mink, Gwendolyn. *Hostile***

***Environment: The Political Betrayal of Sexually Harassed Women.***

Cornell Univ. Feb. 2000. c.176p. permanent paper. index. ISBN 0-8014-3644-3. \$21.95. POLITICS

On the surface, these two books would seem to have something in common—they both talk about the "M" word (Monica, that is) and President Clinton. However, they do so in two very different ways. In *The Scarlet Thread*, Dunn (dean, Grove City Coll.) looks at presidential scandals from Washington to Clinton and puts them into historical context. He argues that the president's morality both reflects and influences the moral mood of the nation. He pays particular attention to the last 70 years and concludes that except for the upright Reagan era, the country has been steeped in a moral morass since the Kennedy administration. While he does provide a historical context for scandals, his conservative bias, especially where it concerns the last 40 years, takes away from the impact of his argument. Not recommended.

Mink's *Hostile Environment* is a case history of sexual harassment law. Mink (political science, Univ. of California, Santa Cruz) wrote it, she says, to defend sexual harassment plaintiffs against the "all-too-convenient redefinition of what sexual harassment is and what the law guards against." She provides a case-by-case history of sexual harassment law and argues that Judge Susan Webber Wright's judgment that President Clinton's behavior did not constitute harassment because he accepted "no" for an answer does serious harm to the laws. She finds feminist support of the President equally troublesome. Much of the book focuses on explaining how sexual harassment laws could, very soon, become worthless. A lucid and interesting history of sexual harassment law; recommended for academic and large public collections.—*Roseanne Castellino, Arthur D. Little, Cambridge, MA*

**Hart, Roderick P. *Campaign Talk: Why Elections Are Good for Us.***

Princeton Univ. Mar. 2000. c.298p. permanent paper. illus. index. ISBN 0-691-00126-X. \$29.95. POLITICS

For those cynical and pessimistic about American political campaigns, this book may be an appropriate antidote. Using DICTION, a sophisticated computer pro-

gram on the language used in elections from 1948 to 1996, Hart (Univ. of Texas, Austin; *How Television Charms the Modern Voter*) argues that political campaigns actually work because they create a dialog among the candidates, the press, and the people. The process, however imperfect, invigorates the nation as much today as it did in the 19th century. As a result, contrary to popular assumptions of the pundits and the public, Hart does not find a need for dramatic change in political campaigns. The sophisticated research methodology does not detract from the readable text. Recommended for academic libraries.—*William D. Pederson, Louisiana State Univ., Shreveport*

**Jett, Dennis C. *Why Peacekeeping Fails.***

St. Martin's. Mar. 2000. c.256p. bibliog. index. LC 99-27685. ISBN 0-312-22698-5. \$49. INT AFFAIRS

Jett, a former U.S. ambassador to Mozambique, assesses UN-sponsored peacekeeping since the Cold War and finds it wanting. He argues that vague objectives, inadequate forces, and bureaucratic politics converged to undercut the UN's effectiveness when confronted with civil wars of maddening complexity. Jett's analysis rests largely on a comparison between the failure in Angola and the limited success in Mozambique. This astute choice of cases—two Portuguese colonies that attained independence under similar circumstances—allows Jett to isolate shortcomings specific to the UN and explain why the Angola conflict outstripped the capabilities of UN peacekeepers. Angola's wealth of natural resources, for instance, enabled the combatants to purchase foreign arms in quantity, while superpower backing for the warring factions prolonged the conflict and inhibited negotiation. The relative absence of these factors eased a settlement in Mozambique. Jett concludes that the UN will be underused for peacekeeping in the future. Strongly recommended for academic libraries.—*James Holmes, Inst. for Foreign Policy Analysis, Cambridge, MA*

**Kaplan, Robert D. *The Coming Anarchy: Shattering the Dreams of the Post Cold War.***

Random. Feb. 2000. c.208p. index. ISBN 0-375-50354-4. \$23. INT AFFAIRS

Let anyone still maintain the illusion that the end of the Cold War ushered in an era of "good times," these nine provocative, thoughtful, and very speculative essays (most of which previously appeared in periodicals) should set the record straight. Here Kaplan (*The End of the Earth; Balkan Ghosts*), a contributing editor of the *Atlantic Monthly*, describes his *Clockwork Orange*-like vision of the world's future—in which societies are permeated

with violence, crime remains unabated, and official corruption and anarchy run rampant. Using West Africa and Turkey as his primary examples, he argues that "environmental scarcity," ethnic strife, overcrowded living areas, and the changing nature of war will irreparably tear the social fabrics of societies all over the world—in places as far apart as India, Canada, South America, Yugoslavia, Africa, the Far East, the Middle East, and even the United States. Kaplan further suggests that democracy will not protect us from this apocalypse; indeed, he notes, it could even help cause it. His experiences as a journalist in the world's hot spots corroborate his pessimistic conclusions, and the clarity of his vision serves as a wake-up call. For most public and academic libraries.—*Jack Forman, Mesa Coll. Lib., San Diego*

**Landy, Marc & Sidney M. Milkis. *Presidential Greatness.***

Univ. Pr. of Kansas. Mar. 2000. c.288p. permanent paper. index. ISBN 0-7006-1005-7. \$34.95. POLITICS

What constitutes presidential greatness? While there are no neutral, objective standards, Landy (political science, Boston Coll.) and Milkis (government, Univ. of Virginia) argue that greatness is "the opportunity and capacity to engage the nation in a struggle for its constitutional soul," to stage a "conservative revolution," and to bring about change and leave a legacy. But they further note the importance of "democratic leadership," more difficult and demanding of a leader. This type of leadership involves "civic education" and the use of political party to have a lasting impact. The truly great presidents, of whom they number Washington, Jefferson, Jackson, Lincoln, and Franklin D. Roosevelt (the usual suspects), not only performed these duties "but did so in a democratic spirit by taking the people to school and explaining why great changes had to be accomplished in a manner compatible with constitutionally prescribed liberties and republican forbearance." The authors then go on to demonstrate how the great presidents actually led democratically and effectively. While cursory, this book compels us to face the dilemma of democratic leadership. A very readable and valuable addition to the literature on presidential leadership.—*Michael A. Genovese, Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles*

**MacDougal, Gary. *Make a Difference: How One Man Helped To Solve America's Poverty Problem.***

St. Martin's. Feb. 2000. c.368p. index. ISBN 0-312-25223-4. \$27.95. POLITICS

MacDougal served as chair of the Governor's Task Force on Human Services Reform in Illinois from 1993 to 1998. Using skills acquired as a corporate CEO, he developed a reform strategy that "focused on