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Book Review of 'If the Gods Had Meant Us To Vote They Would Have Given Us Candidates,' by Jim Hightower

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SOCIAL SCIENCES

ture and release of two Mexican nationals who were confessed spies, make an interesting account of a U.S. intelligence success not previously publicized. Recommended for public libraries.—*Edwin B. Burgess, U.S. Army Combined Arms Research Lib., Fort Leavenworth, KS*

Law & Crime

Lessig, Lawrence. **Code: And Other Laws of Cyberspace.**

Basic Bks: Perseus. 1999. c.240p. illus. ISBN 0-465-03912-X. \$30. LAW
Lessig (law, Harvard) tackles the tricky and troubling question of Internet regulation. Cyberspace has no intrinsic structure to protect its libertarian nature, and we are now well into an era where commerce and its partner in control, government, are working in a manner that could permanently, and perhaps negatively, alter its character. Now is the time for all who stand to benefit from the unique nature of cyberspace to assert their collective values into a framework for regulating it. Apathy or inaction, Lessig argues, would result in a medium shaped by special interests. His book is replete with examples of failed attempts to address cyberspace issues, such as the 1996 Communications Decency Act. A central theme is that the architecture of cyberspace can be coded to address properly salient issues related to free speech, intellectual property, and privacy. This is a vital book for concerned citizens of cyberspace. Recommended for academic and larger public libraries.—*Philip Y. Blue, New York State Supreme Court Criminal Branch Lib., New York*

Paniccia, Patti. **Work Smarts for Women: The Essential Sex Discrimination Survival Guide.**

Ballantine. Jan. 2000. c.480p. ISBN 0-345-42261-9. **pap.** \$14. LAW
In 1993, after a pregnancy, Paniccia was fired from her position as broadcast journalist by a major television network. She sued the network and subsequently settled out of court. Drawing on that experience and her training as an attorney, she has assembled an informative look at all forms of workplace discrimination—harassment, disparate pay and benefits, glass ceiling issues, and unequal treatment due to pregnancy, age, weight, or appearance. She reviews pertinent civil rights legislation and explains the exceptions—workplaces, individuals, or situations that may not come under the protection of those laws. Chapters advise how to take action against an employer; how to file a complaint with the employer or the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; and the ins and outs of lawyers' fees. Appendixes list state human rights' agencies, web sites and organizations that offer information and

help, and the text of applicable legislation. This book is specific, reliable, and practical. Recommended for most public libraries.—*Joan Pedzich, Harris Beach & Wilcox, Rochester, NY*

Sitarz, Daniel. **Corporations: Laws of the United States.**

223p. LC 99-15425. ISBN 0-935755-67-5.

Sitarz, Daniel. **Divorce: Laws of the United States.**

191p. ISBN 0-935755-68-3.

Sitarz, Daniel. **Limited Liability Companies: Laws of the United States.**

159p. LC 99-39257. ISBN 0-935755-80-2.

Sitarz, Daniel. **Partnerships: Laws of the United States.**

250p. LC 99-38111. ISBN 0-935755-69-1.

Sitarz, Daniel. **Wills and Trusts: Laws of the United States.**

159p. LC 99-39250. ISBN 0-935755-70-5.

ea. vol: Nova, dist. by National Bk. Network. (Quick Reference Law). 1999. **pap.** \$16.95. LAW

Sitarz, an attorney and self-help legal writer, offers here a series of books on business, divorce, and estate and trusts law. Each book takes one type of law—such as divorce—and summarizes its relevant statutory laws for each state. The books are clearly written, but they have several failings. First, they don't cite significant case law (and, as any lawyer knows, statutes are not the only source of law). Second, they don't provide Internet references (even to official state web sites). Third, there are no sample forms anywhere in the books. And while these texts are intended "for use by legal professionals, paralegals, businesspersons," it is hard to imagine any of these groups finding them more than marginally useful. In text format and online (via Lexis-Nexis), the *Martindale-Hubbell Law Digest* is a superior summary of the statutory law, prepared by prominent law firms in each state. For nonprofessionals, there is a wealth of information online (at www.findlaw.com, for example, or at official bar association and state sites). Not recommended.—*Harry Charles, Attorney-at-Law, St. Louis*

Political Science

Doder, Dusko & Louise Branson. **Milošević: Portrait of a Tyrant.**

Free Pr. 1999. c.291p. index. LC 99-41729. ISBN 0-684-84308-0. \$25.

INT AFFAIRS

Perhaps no two authors are better qualified for the task of such a biography. It is hardly surprising that journalists Doder and Branson (*Gorbachev: Heretic in the Kremlin*) should find Milošević's personality "compassionless," "rigid," and "vindic-

ative." More interesting are the astonishing events that marked Milošević's rise to power: the "crucial" role of Radio TV Belgrade's "spin doctor" Dusan Mitevic; the betrayal of Serbian party chief Ivan Stambolic, Milošević's mentor; and the dramatic challenges from Prime Minister Milan Panic. The book's shortcoming concerns the details of Milošević's first 40 years. There's little information beyond his parents' suicides and his enduring dependence on his wife, Mira, beginning when they were "emotionally bruised teenagers." While more Milošević biographies will likely follow, this is a solid one suitable for all libraries.—*Zachary T. Irwin, Pennsylvania State Univ., Erie*

Greene, John Robert. **The Presidency of George Bush.**

Univ. Pr. of Kansas. (American Presidency). Feb. 2000. c.229p. permanent paper. index. ISBN 0-7006-0993-8. \$35.

POLITICS

Highly respected presidential historian Greene has written what may well be the finest single volume account of the presidency of George Bush so far. Balanced, fair, and thorough, the book begins by explaining the difficult set of problems Bush inherited from Ronald Reagan—especially economic troubles. Reagan's problems, he argues, came home to roost in the Bush years. Greene argues that Bush attempted to govern with limited opportunities, that he pursued a limited agenda in large part because of them. Was Bush overcautious (as many critics contend), or, Greene asks, did he make the most out of difficult circumstances? Bush, he concludes, "made few mistakes" and left "a more than adequate legacy." And although he is sympathetic to the former president, he does not pass softly over his faults—and he admits he wouldn't call Bush a "great" president. An excellent work of contemporary history, this book is highly readable. It merits the attention of all serious students of the American presidency.—*Michael A. Genovese, Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles*

Hightower, Jim. **If the Gods Had Meant Us To Vote They Would Have Given Us Candidates.**

HarperCollins. Feb. 2000. c.368p. index. ISBN 0-06-019393-X. \$25. POLITICS

With a disarmingly folksy charm, writer and former Texas agriculture commissioner Hightower skewers George W. Bush, Al Gore, America's moneyed interests, the presidential selection process, corporate greed, the corruption of the political process by big money, the wage gap, globalization, and a whole lot more. Part critique of the corruption of American life and politics, part Populist manifesto, this sometimes witty, often irreverent, on-target book offers readers a welcome respite from the more mundane, mainstream accounts of contem-

porary politics. Outspokenness of this sort can seem harsh, angry, and abrasive—and Hightower is indeed angry. But his is an anger fused with wit and insight that draws readers in instead of pushing them away. This valuable contribution will offend, entertain, and enlighten. For public and academic libraries. [Previewed in Prepub Alert, *LJ* 10/15/99.]—*Michael A. Genovese, Loyola Marymount Univ., Los Angeles*

Judis, John B. The Paradox of American Democracy: Elites, Special Interests, and the Betrayal of Public Trust.

Pantheon. Feb. 2000. c.320p. bibliog. index. LC 99-16821. ISBN 0-679-43254-X. \$26. POLITICS
Is America a place primarily for business or for people? This book explores that question by examining the role that elites have played in 20th-century America. Judis (senior editor, *New Republic*) considers public-minded elites essential to American democracy. He compares such elites with those of the post-Vietnam era, whose greed was reminiscent of the conservative elites of the 1920s. Judis presents a convincing exposé of this greed and the individuals and groups it feeds. Less convincing, however, is the author's assumption that the "masses" need an elite of either leaning. The unintended irony of his analysis is that the rise of the crude, conservative counterelite may be an inevitable reaction to self-righteous, liberal elitism. Judis nonetheless presents a readable account of how greed corrupts American values and contributes to governmental gridlock. Recommended for public and academic libraries.—*William D. Pederson, Louisiana State Univ., Shreveport*

Merrill, Christopher. Only the Nails Remain: Scenes from the Balkan Wars.

Rowman & Littlefield. 1999. 416p. permanent paper. bibliog. index. ISBN 0-8476-9820-3. \$27.95. INT AFFAIRS
Merrill, a poet and journalist, spent much of the past decade traveling through the Balkans; here, in a powerful and enigmatic account, he chronicles those travels. Taking the title for his book from a piece by Slovenia's best-known living poet, Tomaz salamun, he tells a story of the war-torn region through the lives of its literary and cultural communities. He conveys the passionate insights of salamun (as well as Montenegro's Slavko Perovic and the Sarajevean Serb Goran Simic) about the cruel absurdity infesting daily Balkan life. Were they able, he notes, they would live the Central European "dream of culture replacing politics." But Merrill also condemns the complicity of intellectuals and the senseless expulsion of non-Croats from the Croatian University of Mostar. Merrill's vignettes are reminiscent of other writing about the region and will be espe-

cially so for those familiar with his earlier work in periodicals. But this is a valuable book, especially for its portrait of the less-known Slovene literary life. Highly recommended for all academic and larger libraries.—*Zachary T. Irwin, Pennsylvania State Univ., Erie*

NATO's Empty Victory.

CATO Inst., dist. by National Bk. Network. Jan. 2000. c.200p. ed. by Ted Calen Carpenter. ISBN 1-882577-85-X. \$18.95; pap. ISBN 1-882577-86-8. \$9.95. INT AFFAIRS

Within days of the end of the fighting, policy-oriented scholars began writing up the lessons and meaning of the Kosovo conflict (March-June 1999). The arguments assembled in this collection probe deeper into the diplomatic and moral rationale for the NATO-led conflict with Serbia. Readers familiar with the CATO Institute, an independent Washington think-tank, will find that this text adopts its generally conservative line. A battery of foreign policy experts focus on what they perceive to have been the diplomatic miscalculations and the moral blunders in the lopsided, ill-advised conflict. These range from NATO's misreading of Serb and Albanian nationalism to the harming of the West's relations with Russia and China. John Mearshheimer's essay on partition as the only rational solution to the Serb-Kosovar problem, in particular, introduces a much-needed element of sober realism into the debate about the future of the Balkans. While these essays do not cover important recent events, they underscore the need for a sustained effort to overcome the weight of Balkan history in reviewing the recent conflict. For academic and larger public libraries.—*John Raymond Walser, U.S. Dept. of State, Washington, DC*

Powaski, Ronald E. Return to Armageddon: The United States and the Nuclear Arms Race, 1981-1999.

Oxford Univ. Feb. 2000. c.288p. permanent paper. index. ISBN 0-19-510382-3. \$30. INT AFFAIRS
The sequel to Powaski's *March to Armageddon* (Oxford, 1987), this book follows the progress toward U.S.-Soviet arms control during the three most recent U.S. administrations. Based on U.S. documents, newspapers, and memoirs of key figures, the book dissects the negotiations as they occurred, emphasizing the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty, the Strategic Arms Reduction treaties, and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Powaski also considers other events that affected arms control, including domestic politics on both sides and the horizontal spread of nuclear weapons to other states. Although the two nuclear superpowers have made clear progress in cutting nuclear stockpiles, the author remains wary of the nuclear inten-

tions of other states and the potential threat from terrorist groups. Useful for informed readers; recommended for academic libraries.—*Marcia L. Sprules, Council on Foreign Relations Lib., New York*

The Reader's Companion to the American Presidency.

Houghton. Feb. 2000. c.576p. ed. by Alan Brinkley & Davis Dyer. illus. index. ISBN 0-395-78889-7. \$40. POLITICS
Edited by Brinkley (history, Columbia Univ.) and Dyer (*TRW: Pioneering Technology and Innovation Since 1900*) and written by a collection of eminent historians—including Michael Holt, William McFeely, and David Oshinsky—this book is a solid, concise guide to American presidents. In essays that run between ten and 20 pages, contributors provocatively evaluate the record of each of our 51 executives, from Washington through Clinton. While each entry offers a brief bibliography, a time line, a few demographic and economic tables, and a sidebar entitled "The First Family," the book is less factually oriented and less suited for quick reference than either the two-volume *Congressional Quarterly's Guide to the Presidency* (1996) or Leonard W. Levy's four-volume *Encyclopedia of the American Presidency* (*LJ* 1/94). And while each in-

Algora Publishing

Soul Snatchers

The Mechanics of Cults



Soul Snatchers: The Mechanics of Cults

by Jean-Marie Abgrall
ISBN 1-892941-04-X
Pap. \$21.95, 296 pp.
January 2000

"Abgrall, a practicing psychiatrist and professional criminologist, has spent 15 years researching cult phenomena and presents here a thorough analysis of their psychodynamics... Well organized and readable, ... recommended for public and academic libraries." *Library Journal*, December 1999.