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Sklar, Martin J.: Creating the American century: the ideas and legacies of America's twentieth-century foreign policy founders

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offers a much deeper revelation of ways in which Americans understood gender and its fluidity around the turn of the 20th century. **Summing Up: ★★★** Highly recommended. All levels/libraries.—*E. K. Jackson, Colorado Mesa University*

55-2945 E744 CIP
Sklar, Martin J. **Creating the American century: the ideas and legacies of America's twentieth-century foreign policy founders.** Cambridge, 2017. 246p index ISBN 9781108419475 cloth, \$99.99; ISBN 9781108409247 pbk, \$29.99; ISBN 9781108321228 ebook, contact publisher for price

The late Sklar (d. 2014; history, Bucknell), known for his theory of corporate liberalism, analyzes the “set of thinking” of the founders of US foreign policy. Those ideas, which he claims centered on modernization and global human progress, emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and set the stage for the development of the so-called American Century. Sklar uses the Philippines as a case study for the US plan to construct a global system of open trade and investment. He then reviews the rest of the 20th and early 21st centuries, presenting “propositional statements,” which flow from the founders’ approach, to address various geographic and historical topics. Unfortunately, most of these chapters are written as enumerated points in long, occasionally incomprehensible sentences. The last chapter is a provocative, wide-ranging essay on history in the US and the role of the US in history. The extensive footnotes may be of some interest to specialists, but the ideas and concepts contained therein will be familiar. In general, the book reads more like a series of notes or a draft than a finished work. **Summing Up:** Not recommended.—*L. M. Lees, Old Dominion University*

55-2946 RA629 MARC
Smith, Jeffrey. **The rural cemetery movement: places of paradox in nineteenth-century America.** Lexington Books, 2017. 165p bibl index ISBN 9781498529006 cloth, \$90.00; ISBN 9781498529013 ebook, \$85.50

Smith (history, Lindenwood Univ.) approaches the 19th-century rural cemetery movement from the perspective of its paradoxes. Burial institutions evolved as remedies to overcrowding at the outskirts of rapidly growing cities, but eventually were overwhelmed by that growth. They mimicked an idyllic rural landscape while serving an urban community; performed both sacred and recreational functions; and were public spaces as well as private businesses. Smith surveys the tensions among these functions, using examples from cities including Boston, Brooklyn, Akron, Philadelphia, and St. Louis. While the landscape architecture aspects have been intensively examined elsewhere, and Smith reviews them here as well, his true contribution is his focus on the business aspects of rural cemeteries, how they were financed and maintained, and the implications for design inherent in the social class structure of the 19th century. The author details the choices made to serve wealthy elites, religious groups, the poor, and the burgeoning middle class, and explores the process of increasing regulation and standardization. Excellent bibliography, but the photographic examples are less stellar. **Summing Up: ★★** Recommended. All academic libraries.—*J. C. Wanser, Hiram College*

55-2947 UH23 CIP
Stahl, Ronit Y. **Enlisting faith: how the military chaplaincy shaped religion and state in modern America.** Harvard, 2017. 348p index ISBN 9780674972155 cloth, \$39.95; ISBN 9780674981300 ebook, contact publisher for price

Recent religious studies scholarship has intensively explored how “religion” often is a term defined by the state, especially when confronted with the necessities of court decisions, social conflicts, and military

organization. This outstanding, definitive book is about the latter. Expertly, with deep research and great stories, historian Stahl (fellow, medical ethics and health policy, Univ. of Pennsylvania) charts the course of the military chaplaincy from WW I (when the current chaplain system effectively was institutionalized) to the present. Throughout, questions loom about “what the state recognized as religion.” Recent demographic shifts have heightened the issue, resulting in inconsistencies such as recognition of the sacrament of peyote but not of Sikh turbans. As of now, the Department of Defense recognizes 221 “faith group codes,” but the multiplicity of religious traditions and the very conflict built into the religious freedom and religious establishment clauses of the First Amendment will continue to vex the military bureaucracy as it does secular courts. Stahl shows how the chaplaincy was a “state religious project” as well as a “political project invested and intertwined with domestic life and foreign affairs.” A supremely important, well-executed work of scholarship, sure to have wide influence. **Summing Up: ★★★** Essential. All levels/libraries.—*P. Harvey, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs*

55-2948 F128 CIP
Wallace, Mike. **Greater Gotham: a history of New York City from 1898 to 1919.** Oxford, 2017. 1,182p bibl indexes (Gotham, 2) ISBN 9780195116359 cloth, \$45.00; ISBN 9780199723058 ebook, contact publisher for price

Almost 20 years after the appearance of the first volume—*Gotham: A History of New York City to 1898* (CH, Apr’99, 36-4656)—of this comprehensive compendium on New York City’s history, which he coauthored, Wallace (history, Graduate Center, CUNY) presents an equally sweeping second tome of equivalent length on the two decades after the consolidation of all five boroughs. The expanded city continued to accept influences from around the country and the world. Twenty-four chapters compose five overarching organizational parts: “Consolidations and Contradictions”; “Construction and Connection”; “Cultures”; “Confrontations”; and “Wars.” Wallace’s work is comparable to *The Encyclopedia of New York City* (CH, Sep’96, 34-0018; 2nd ed. 2010 CH, Jun’11, 48-5447) by Kenneth T. Jackson, who was one of the acknowledged scores of scholars commenting on the manuscript. Wallace makes the past present and makes his mark by providing particular attention to marginalized groups such as international and internal immigrants and LGBTQ members, whose measured acceptance in the metropolis was greater than one might have expected. This substantive reference work, analytical rather than purely descriptive, mines extensive secondary sources and is accessible to most readers. A future third volume in the series will focus on 1920–45. **Summing Up: ★★★** Highly recommended. All levels/libraries.—*F. J. Augustyn Jr., Library of Congress*

55-2949 F786 MARC
Weber, David J. **First impressions: a reader's journey to iconic places of the American Southwest,** by David J. Weber and William de-Buys. Yale, 2017. 339p bibl index ISBN 9780300215045 cloth, \$30.00

Weber (d. 2010) and deBuys’s collaboration stands as a culmination of two lifetime’s worth of devoted and passionate study. Beautifully written and impeccably researched, *First Impressions* takes readers through the discovery of 15 incredible places, including Ácoma, Carlsbad Caverns, El Morro, and Rainbow Bridge, among numerous other sites of beauty or historical significance. Readers traverse these various landmarks of the Southwest through non-Indian historical actors who recorded their own “first impressions” of them on ink and paper; in providing these reflections, the two authors also offer snapshots into the region’s wondrous indigenous and environmental histories. The late Weber (beloved by many who have studied the region’s history, including the author of this short review)