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Black, Megan: The Global Interior: Mineral Frontiers and American Power

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African eunuchs who normally held this important position. The work opens with a useful introduction to African eunuchs prior to the Ottoman period and a general discussion of eunuchs in the Ottoman palace. Starting with Habeshi Mehmed Agha's appointment as chief harem eunuch by Murad III and his subsequent control over the pious foundations of Mecca and Medina, Hathaway details the struggle for power and factionalism within the palace between the chief harem eunuch and his counterpart in the Third Court (the sultan's private chambers), the chief threshold eunuch. The former often in combination with the sultan's mother or favorite concubine wielded considerable power, ousting grand viziers and even placing sultans on the throne. This influence briefly waned during the Köprülü period, but continued until the mid-18th century. Filled with lively eunuch biographies and analyses of their involvement in Egypt and Ottoman intellectual and religious life as well as of their ultimate loss of influence, this work is both a great scholarly feat and a compelling read.

Summing Up: ★★★★★ Essential. All academic levels.—*R. W. Zens, Le Moyne College*

56-2902 DS117 MARC
Masalha, Nur. **Palestine: a four thousand year history.** Zed Books, 2018. 448p bibl index ISBN 9781786992727 cloth, \$35.00; ISBN 9781786992741 ebook, contact publisher for price

"A land without a people for a people without a land" was a common refrain surrounding the creation of Israel, ignoring the existence of Palestinians. More recently, politicians have claimed that Palestine and the Palestinian people are recent inventions, in contrast to the long-standing history of Israel. Masalha (Univ. of London, UK) illuminates the errors of these views by providing an accessible analysis of 4,000 years of Palestinian history. By going back to the Bronze Age and documenting how various eras recognized a specific territory by variations of the name *Palestine*, he provides a history based on archaeological and historical records rather than biblical narratives. As he moves into the present, Masalha demonstrates the importance of names and language in his analysis of how Zionist settlers and Israeli leaders strove to erase Palestinian connections to the land by renaming towns, cities, and landmarks (in addition to removing the people themselves) while reinventing themselves with a new language (modern Hebrew) and new names for themselves. This book is an essential component for understanding past and present. Rather than imposing history on Palestine, Masalha allows Palestine to speak for itself. **Summing Up:** ★★★★★ Essential. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.—*D. E. Jenison, Kent State University*

56-2903 BM150 MARC
Shumsky, Dmitry. **Beyond the nation-state: the Zionist political imagination from Pinsker to Ben-Gurion.** Yale, 2018. 297p bibl index ISBN 9780300230130 cloth, \$40.00; ISBN 9780300241099 ebook, contact publisher for price

A strongly revisionist work in contemporary political thought, *Beyond the Nation-State* challenges the reigning element of Zionist historiography on the inevitability of a one-state solution—of a centralized Jewish state in Palestine. Basing his position on his close examination of the writings of five key Zionist leaders—Leon Pinsker, Theodor Herzl, Ahad Ha'am, Vladimir Ze'ev Jabotinsky, and David Ben-Gurion—Shumsky (history, Hebrew Univ., Jerusalem) concludes that all five, who were born and formed in two large multinational European empires, strove for their liberalization and shared the autonomist convictions of other subject East European people. Consequently they also envisaged a future Palestine in which Jewish sovereignty (based on the expectation of ultimately achieving a Jewish majority) would recognize the national rights of the

Arab population. Shumsky concedes that history intervened to defeat this goal. The Arab Revolt and Britain's partition-proposal of 1937, followed by the decimation of Europe's Jewish minority between 1939 and 1945, eventually turned Ben-Gurion in the direction of the exclusive nation-state paradigm. That paradigm has dominated Israeli political thought and politics since 1948 without entirely extinguishing, Shumsky contends in the conclusion, the pre-state Zionists' hope for a "state of all its nationalities." **Summing Up:** ★★ Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty; general readers.—*C. Fink, emerita, Ohio State University*

56-2904 KZ6495 MARC
Smiley, Will. **From slaves to prisoners of war: the Ottoman Empire, Russia, and international law.** Oxford, 2018. 283p bibl index ISBN 9780198785415 cloth, \$85.00; ISBN 9780191088186 ebook, contact publisher for price

This is an extensively detailed history of Ottoman Turkish relations primarily but not entirely with the Russian Empire, the Hapsburgs, and the West, dealing with the numerous wars in which it was involved between 1700 and 1876. Smiley (Univ. of New Hampshire) scrupulously examines to an exaggerated point battles and wars in which all the belligerents participated, leaving the narrative often difficult to follow. The treatment is well served by the employment of archival materials from Ottoman, British, Russian, and Austrian sources, augmented by a wide range of secondary sources, attesting to the author's linguistic abilities. The bulk of the coverage deals with the belligerents' treatment of their wartime captives either through enslavement, execution, or extended detainment as a prisoner-of-war. Specifically referenced is the Ottoman Law of Ransom, the Law of Release, and the Ottoman prisoner-of-war system, though not handled is the question of hostages. The most appreciative audience for this dense treatment would be Ottoman history enthusiasts and to a far lesser degree international law history scholars. **Summing Up:** ★★ Recommended. Graduate students through faculty.—*S. R. Silverburg, emeritus, Catawba College*

North America

56-2905 HD9506 CIP
Black, Megan. **The global interior: mineral frontiers and American power.** Harvard, 2018. 348p index ISBN 9780674984257 cloth, \$39.95; ISBN 9780674989580 ebook, contact publisher for price

In this well researched interdisciplinary study, Black (international history, London School of Economics) argues that the US Department of the Interior, with a seemingly domestic mandate, projected American power abroad and became a key agent of American hegemony. Interior's engine was the growing US desire for raw materials. The department was created in 1849 as an agent of settler colonialism with a mandate to manage US western expansion; the closing of the frontier pushed the department to extract minerals and other resources around the globe in the guise of securing elements essential to US national security. Engaging with the environment became a means for intervention abroad; if resources crossed borders, so should experts in their use. The expansion of capitalism and American power was the main goal, but the department, with its staff of geologists and scientists, claimed to be an environmental steward rather than an arm of the US empire. Interior's work was bipartisan and done in collusion with private interests; corporations disliked the rules the department imposed but welcomed government involvement in their own expansion. Only President Reagan's rollback of environmental regulations and the military's usurpation of the

department's role in resource acquisition caused a decline in its power.

Summing Up: ★★ Recommended. Advanced undergraduates through faculty and professionals.—*L. M. Lees, emerita, Old Dominion University*

CC 56-2906 E382 CIP
Cheatham, Mark R. **Andrew Jackson and the rise of the Democratic Party.** Tennessee, 2018. 241p bibl index ISBN 9781621904533 pbk, \$24.95

This paperback edition is obviously intended as a textbook for a Jacksonian America undergraduate course, but it is also accessible to the interested general reader. Each chapter is filled with engaging anecdotes and substantive quotations from primary documents. The personalities of Jacksonian America come alive via Cheatham's emphasis on narrative supported by quotations. Jackson's iconic status made him the focal point of the political divisions that resulted in a vigorous two-party electoral democracy, one that has characterized the nation ever since. Cheatham's bibliographic essay is the real scholarly gem of this work, and valuable for its intended audience. The editors and publisher have hurt this paperback edition, as parts of two or more sentences are missing on pp. 210–11, and there are too many other typographical errors throughout the volume. For an edition intended to make Cheatham's substantial research more accessible to students and the general public, so many errors might defeat the purpose. Nevertheless, *Andrew Jackson and the rise of the Democratic Party* is recommended to anyone who wants to better understand Jacksonian America and its politics. **Summing Up:** ★★ Recommended. With reservations. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty.—*J. Rogers, Louisiana State University Alexandria*

CC 56-2907 E183 CIP
Ellis, Joseph J. **American dialogue: the founders and us.** Knopf, 2018. 283p index ISBN 9780385353427 cloth, \$27.95; ISBN 9780385353434 ebook, \$14.99

In *American Dialogue*, Ellis makes an argument for the continued relevance of historical education. The author writes in the preface ("My Self-Evident Truth") that he organized the book around the notion that the American Revolution "produced the Big Bang that created all the planets and orbits in our political universe." Ellis contends that one can identify the origins of contemporary political crises in the moral attitudes and political structures established by the founding generation. The book is structured as a series of discussions between the past and the present: contemporary racism is examined in relation to Jefferson's white supremacy; economic inequality is placed in the context of John Adams's reflections on freedom and property; the gridlock of political institutions is juxtaposed to the attitude of pragmatic compromise that allowed Madison to shepherd the Constitution through ratification; and Washington's foreign policy realism is used to illuminate the ambivalence of American globalism in the post–Cold War world order. Ellis's approach is reductive in that he ignores intervening historical development in an effort to show the continued relevance of the Revolution. Nevertheless, the book is charmingly written and would be a perfect catalyst for discussion in an introductory course on American history. **Summing Up:** ★★ Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates; general readers.—*S. P. Harshner, Marquette University*

CC 56-2908 F379 CIP
Ellis, Scott S. **The Faubourg Marigny of New Orleans: a history.** Louisiana State, 2018. 280p bibl index ISBN 9780807169353 cloth, \$39.95; ISBN 9780807170045 ebook, contact publisher for price

This book tells the story of one of New Orleans's oldest neighborhoods and recounts the establishment of the Crescent City itself. It traces the Faubourg ("suburb" in French) Marigny from when it housed

just a few dozen residents to its gentrification by gay men in the 1980s to its re-gentrification by outside prospectors in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Renowned for its beautifully ornate double shotgun houses and Creole cottages, the Marigny is a sought-after area adjacent to the French Quarter. Ellis's book is written so that those not familiar with the area will develop a newfound admiration for the city and those from the area will revel in knowing more of their history. Those interested in New Orleans history should also read Michael Crutcher's *Tremé: Race and Place in a New Orleans Neighborhood* (2010), about the country's oldest African American neighborhood, which is located just behind the French Quarter. **Summing Up:** ★★ Recommended. All readers.—*D. M. Braquet, University of Tennessee, Knoxville*

56-2909 F351 CIP
Finding a new midwestern history, ed. and introd. by Jon K. Lauck, Gleaves Whitney, and Joseph Hogan. Nebraska, 2018. 365p index ISBN 9781496201829 cloth, \$55.00; ISBN 9781496208798 ebook, \$55.00

In 2015, a group of historians met in Michigan to reinvigorate the study of midwestern history. The result of the meeting was a series of essays published in this engaging volume. Individual essays cover virtually every imaginable topic of the history of the American Midwest. An essay by Michael Steiner chronicles the emergence of the very idea of the region; for example, James Davis shows how nature impacted the settlement of the Midwest. Essays like Susan Gray's "Native Americans and Midwestern History" and Jeffrey Helgeson's "Politics in the Promised Land: How the Great Migration Shaped the American Midwest" document the way the diverse peoples of the region shaped and experienced it. Research such as that of Jon Butler, one of the foremost historians of American religion, and folk music scholar James Leary, chronicle shifting cultural traditions in the Midwest. Other essays tackle sports, intellectual life, and identity in the region. This book could be assigned in advanced undergraduate courses, and any faculty or academic staff whose teaching even remotely deals with the Midwest should read this book. **Summing Up:** ★★ Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.—*J. Shelton, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay*

CC 56-2910 E99 CIP
Hantman, Jeffrey L. **Monacan millennium: a collaborative archaeology and history of a Virginia Indian people.** Virginia, 2018. 217p bibl index ISBN 9780813941479 cloth, \$29.50; ISBN 9780813941486 ebook, \$29.50

Monacans are a Siouan-language nation occupying interior Virginia west of the Powhatan kingdom where Jamestown was built. Hantman (Univ. of Virginia) cooperated with Monacans, now a small community, to recover their history and apply for federal recognition as a tribe. The first and last sections of the book describe his growing understanding of this Indian nation's struggles to survive European invasion. He movingly tells how listening to today's Monacans enlightened his understanding of the archaeology of their homeland and Jamestown colonists' descriptions. Upriver from the Algonkian-speaking kingdom led aggressively by the Powhatan, Monacans avoided the colonists, instead continuing their trade with interior nations. As colonization encroached on their country, Monacans dispersed from towns into farms off the main routes, neither noticed nor documented by historians. Thomas Jefferson did note Monacans visiting their ancestors' burial mound, which he later excavated. The book's middle section explains how Monacans' strategy for survival steered Hantman toward an understanding of the region's archaeology and a new perspective on Jamestown chronicles. Clearly written, *Monacan Millennium* exemplifies the new collaboration with First Nations that gives archaeologists unanticipated clues to deep-time