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Latinos in the American Political System: An Encyclopedia of Latinos as Voters, Candidates, and Office Holders [Book Review]

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short takes

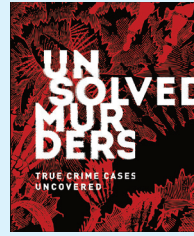
Greene, David. *Buy, Rehab, Rent, Refinance, Repeat: The BRRRR Rental Property Investment Strategy Made Simple*. Bigger Pockets. May 2019. 192p. ISBN 9781947200081. pap. \$24.99; ebk. ISBN 9781947200098. REF

Greene (*Long-Distance Real Estate Investing*), with nearly a decade's worth of experience pursuing financial security through real estate rehab, shares his strategy to acquiring a significant real estate portfolio in just a few years. The author uses "Traditional Tom" and "Mastery Mike" to illustrate points, along with financial formulas and examples from his personal BRRRR investments. Phrases such as "grow your wealth FAST" and "become a black belt real estate investor" give the writing an infomercial slant. **VERDICT** For readers willing to step outside conventional real estate investment thought. Consider for balanced and broad finance and investing collections.

Hunt, Amber & Emily G. Thompson. *Unsolved Murders: True Crime Cases Uncovered*. DK. Feb. 2019. 176p. illus. index. ISBN 9781465479716. \$19.99; ebk. ISBN 9781465486226. REF

Journalists Hunt (*Dead but Not Forgotten; All American Murder*) and Thompson (*Unsolved Child Murders*) delve into the sometimes gory details of 20 unsolved murders from 1912 to 2010. Armchair sleuths can peer at grainy photos, follow sketches and illustrations, and read the six to ten pages covering each case, though they will probably be as stymied by the missing evidence and dead ends as thwarted professional investigators. **VERDICT** True crime circulates well, and this brisk, if somewhat bloody, book will find an audience.

Leaders Who Changed History. DK. Mar. 2019. 320p. illus. index. ISBN 9781465480330. \$25. REF



From Moses and Buddha to Barack Obama and Malala Yousafzai, the leaders profiled here span the globe and were ambitious and influential. While most had a positive impact, some were indisputably destructive (Adolf Hitler) and others are open for debate. The 80-plus entries are arranged chronologically. Portraits, clarifying illustrations, boxed text, and bold graphics will attract middle school students through adults. Directory entries highlight about 125 additional people. **VERDICT** An intriguing and enlightening collection of historical and modern figures. Though many names are familiar, readers are likely to learn something new.

Miller, Carrie. *100 Dives of a Lifetime: The World's Ultimate Underwater Destinations*. National Geographic. Mar. 2019. 400p. photos. ISBN 9781426220074. \$35. REF
Even those without much interest in scuba diving may be converts after

contributors organize this look at Asian American history not by ethnic group. Instead, they focus on five topics, grouped chronologically from 1848 to 2018. Within each section, five extended essays, with chronologies and scholarly citations, explore pivotal events and provide contextual depth and connections to the present. Some of the events analyzed are positive, such as the creation of the first Asian studies program, the building of the first Sikh *gurdwara*, and *Lau v. Nichols*, which established students' right to language support. Many, such as the Vietnam War, Vincent Chin's murder, the 1992 L.A. riots, or post-9/11 Islamophobia, are not. Besides the more familiar events, others, including the Luce-Celler Act of 1946, deserve wider attention. The World War II death toll in the Philippines—the highest on then-U.S. soil in any war—is not mentioned, but the volume doesn't claim to be comprehensive. Each chapter offers an instructive view of Asians' experience (often of discrimination) in that period, though tracing one thread (e.g., Chinese exclusion) across time is more difficult. The index, however, is a reliable work-around. **VERDICT** College and advanced high school students, as well as general readers interested in Asian American history, will find these thorough writings a rich source of research ideas.—*Patricia D. Lothrop, formerly of St. George's Sch., Newport, RI*

LITERATURE

Magill's Literary Annual, 2019. Salem. Mar. 2019. 746p. ed. by Jennifer Sawtelle. photos.

index. ISBN 9781642651171. \$210; ebk. ISBN 9781642651188. REF

This year's *Magill's* covers 150 "outstanding" examples of fiction, nonfiction, short story collections, and poetry of which informed readers will want to be aware. Entries follow a uniform format, with author and publisher, type of work, and, as often as possible, information such as locale, time period, and principal characters, as well as a capsule description and analysis of style, subject, and themes. Most give detailed attention to the book's critical reception, and all end with a listing of review sources. Records are signed; while no information aside from names and advanced degrees are given, five of the 19 entry writers are PhDs, while one has an MA and an MLIS. Each volume has an annotated title list, and the second contains category and title indexes. Many of the virtues of the latest *Magill's* are also its weaknesses. The uniformity of entries allows readers to find information in roughly the same place each time. The material and selection of books are usually solid. However, that same uniformity doesn't encourage patrons to read multiple entries or even one entry in depth. **VERDICT** A good starting point for research into current literature or as a readers' advisory tool.—*Robert Mixner, Bartholomew Cty. P.L., Columbus, IN*

POLITICAL SCIENCE

★ *Latinos in the American Political System: An Encyclopedia of Latinos as Voters, Candidates, and Office Holders*. 2 vols. ABC-CLIO. Mar. 2019. 770p. ed. by

Jessica L. Lavariega Monforti. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781440853463. \$198; ebk. ISBN 9781440853470. REF

According to Monforti (dean, Coll. of Arts and Sciences, California Lutheran Univ.) and contributors from a variety of fields (political science, ethnic studies, anthropology, and more), Latinx Americans make up almost one-fifth of the country's population but only one percent of its appointed and elected officials. However, as this encyclopedia so aptly demonstrates, their potential for increased political power, engagement, and mobilization is immense and sure to grow despite a history of low voter turnout and representation. The two-volume set consists of 240 alphabetically arranged short entries, 20 historically significant primary documents, and four excellent introductory essays that identify noteworthy Latinx Americans and their contributions, as well as relevant events and policies. Also featured are a guide to related topics, a chronology, an annotated appendix of active Latinx organizations, and an extended bibliography. Both the essays and short entries include resources for further reading, while all short entries are cross-referenced. Although several Latinx subgroups are profiled, the most coverage is devoted to Mexican Americans, the largest U.S. Latinx group. **VERDICT** This authoritative, accessible work not only answers questions but also provides a variety of perspectives about future Latinx political trends. For general readers, high school students, and undergraduates.—*Rob Tench, Old Dominion Univ. Libs., Norfolk, VA*

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