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African Americans and the Presidents: Politics and Policies from Washington to Trump

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REFERENCE

here are the articles on chemical weapons and trench warfare. Individual country entries add details. Women's impact is briefly noted; wartime medical advances or deficiencies and the conflict's effect on the arts are not covered at all, but the amount of information overall is staggering. **VERDICT** These volumes' stellar organization and depth of scholarly coverage make them important supplements to the numerous existing World War I reference works.—*Patricia D. Lothrop, formerly of St. George's Sch., Newport, RI*

LITERATURE

Critical Survey of Graphic Novels: History, Theme, and Technique. 2d ed. Grey House. Feb. 2019. 400p. ed. by Bart H. Beaty & Stephen Weiner. photos. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781682179116. \$243.75; ebk. ISBN 9781682179598. REF

With this second edition, editors Beaty (English, Univ. of Calgary; *Fredric Wertham and the Critique of Mass Culture*) and Weiner (director, Maynard P.L., MA; *Faster Than a Speeding Bullet*) provide a comprehensive survey. The book takes an American perspective, although parts about ancient and very recent history address origins and influence from overseas, and the editors manage to be inclusive within this scope. Topics are broad,

from straightforward narrative history to discussions of the term *graphic novel*. Although the work is divided into the three sections of the title, history remains a constant throughout, and the development of techniques, production methods, themes, and genres is depicted as constantly changing, not static. Though most entries remain largely unmodified from the earlier edition, some take into consideration changes in technology, and some entries in the “themes” section mention newer works. A new chapter in the “history” section covers the 2010s, and the awards listings have been updated. **VERDICT** A thorough, conscientious look at the topic, given the space provided. If the writing is sometimes dry, that's an acceptable trade off: even though comics and graphic novels have risen in general and academic esteem, most writing on them mirrors the author's enthusiasms, rather than going for general coverage. This volume is a solid corrective.—*Robert Mixner, Bartholomew Cty. P.L., Columbus, IN*

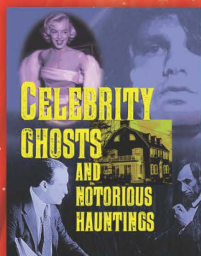
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Brooks, F. Erik & Glenn L. Starks. African Americans and the Presidents: Politics and Policies from Washington to Trump. Greenwood. Apr. 2019. 318p. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781440862113. \$94; ebk. ISBN 9781440862120. REF

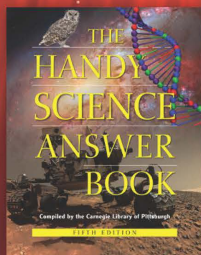
Brooks (humanities & social sciences, Kentucky State Univ.; coeditor, *How the Obama Presidency Changed the Political Landscape*) and Starks (public administration & policy, Walden Univ., MN) analyze the polices,

programs, agendas, and moral positions U.S. presidents have taken in addressing the social, cultural, political, and legal concerns and rights of African Americans. The authors also explore African Americans' views of each president in terms of their political support for specific causes and issues. Brooks and Starks argue that leaders do not take actions based on their own political and personal agendas but instead act in concert with the political and social climate. The work is organized into six eras: “Slavery,” “Civil War,” “Emancipation,” “Post-Reconstruction,” “Civil Rights,” and “Post-Civil Rights.” All 45 presidents are profiled, with information about their lives, careers, and policies, as well as primary resources such as personal writings, memoirs, and news articles. Not surprisingly, the most detailed chapters are on presidents who served during the civil rights movement (John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson) and the post-civil rights era (Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama). Articles are clearly and precisely written, with a lack of editorializing by the authors. The book is best suited for general readers but also serves as an excellent starting point for student projects, with further reading lists at the end of each presidential entry and an extensive bibliography. **VERDICT** Certainly not the final word on the historical significance of presidents and their relationships with African Americans, this is an effective overview, with excellent supporting documentation.—*Rob Tench, Old Dominion Univ. Libs., Norfolk, VA*

Engaging References!



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ereviews

Shakespeare's Globe Archive: Theatres, Players, & Performance

Adam Matthew;
www.shakespearesglobearchive.amdigital.co.uk

■ *By Rob Tench*

CONTENT Shakespeare's Globe Theatre is a reconstruction of the 1599 open-air theater of the same name; William Shakespeare owned a percentage of it and wrote and performed in plays staged there. This database documents both the performances at the new Globe, which opened in 1997, and the adjacent Sam Wanamaker Playhouse, an indoor theater established in 2014. It also chronicles the reconstruction and design of the Globe.

The archive explores 170 plays, concerts,



and events as well as more than 400 different productions since the opening of the new structures. The material is divided into 14 document types: “prompt books,” “wardrobe notes and jottings,” “music,” “props,” “performance photographs,” “programs,” “show reports,” “posters,” “Globe research,” “annual reports,” “the quarterly magazine *Around the Globe*,” “architectural material,” “oral histories,” and “art by June Everett,” the Globe's former artist in residence.

USABILITY The tabs on the landing page enable easy linking and access to the database's comprehensive contents. On the top left-hand side of the landing page, there are five

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