Money in American Politics

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This accessible, comprehensive reference tells the story of world history, up to the present, through more than 140 full-color maps. Using the Smithsonian’s world-renowned resources, the volume provides meticulous detail on everything from the first human migrations out of Africa to the definitive battles of World War II to the Iran and Gulf Wars. The maps contain panels of descriptive text and graphics that highlight key figures. Color photographs and images offer context. A time-line section succinctly summarizes the contents of the maps. Readers will emerge with an understanding that a country’s history is shaped as much by its geography as its population.VERDICT For anyone interested in world history.—Gary Medina, El Camino Coll., Torrance, CA


Editor Schultz (Univ. of Minnesota Law Sch.; political science, Hamline Univ.) addresses the central role of money in U.S. politics. In the preface, he writes that many see money as a corrupting tool of leverage by special interests while others perceive it as a form of free speech in need of constitutional protection. This book debates those divergent perspectives and provides answers to two core questions: Does money influence the legislative process? Are the United States’ patterns of wealth distribution beneficial for the nation’s democracy? With contributors who include academics, attorneys, researchers, and students of law, political science, and public administration and policy, the work consists of a chronology, general index, and 155 entries. The articles on Federal Contribution Limits, Political Action Committees, and State Legislative Races also contain figures and tables. The primary focus is on court cases, individuals, groups, organizations, and events since the 1972 presidential election and the Water-gate break-in. According to Schultz, that is when campaign donations, legislation, and litigation began shaping the effect of money.VERDICT General readers will find this a fair-minded, clear, and informative foundation for examining the influence of money on the legislative process.—Rob Tench, Old Dominion Univ. Libs., Norfolk, VA

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Seeley (history, Kent State at Stark; coeditor, Voices of the American Indian Experience) and Selby (history, Kent State at Stark) have compiled 300 articles by 56 contributors describing North American history from 1492 to 1789. The signed entries discuss events, people, social conditions,