Mass Shootings in America: Understanding the Debates, Causes, and Responses

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Reporting from the front lines; voices of the opposition; solutions to end the ongoing violence


Although many think that the current presidential political climate is an aberration, readers will find it easy to locate documents, as each volume contains a useful bibliography. By focusing on not only opticians but also enlisted soldiers, this collection of diary entries, letters, autobiography excerpts, and oral history accounts sets itself apart from similar titles. In a letter written during the Revolution, Joseph Townsend, a Quaker teenager, describes the aftermath of the Battle of Brandywine, including details of the number of wounded and dead soldiers. An interview with Brian Taylor, a marine who operated a grenade launcher during the invasion of Iraq, discusses the difficulty of distinguishing friendly civilians from insurgents and vividly describes the chaos of battle and the platoons under attack. Readers will be fascinated at how these issues influenced policies and effectiveness. Perhaps even more interesting is the variety of strategies leaders used to combat adversaries and theories on why some weathered the storm better than others. Various themes and topics such as the role of media, political psychology, leadership ability, character, personality, and will are expertly and entertainingly interwoven.

VERDICT Of interest to lower- and upper-level undergraduate military history students seeking primary source documents.—Diane Fulkerson, Univ. of South Florida, Lakeland


This work debates and often debunks assumptions about these violent events. Eleven essays by criminology, sociology, and psychology scholars provide background. An interesting is the variety of strategies leaders used to combat adversaries and theories on why some weathered the storm better than others. Various themes and topics such as the role of media, political psychology, leadership ability, character, personality, and will are expertly and entertainingly interwoven.

VERDICT Presidential political science and history buffs will pore over this captivating study; researchers will find the further reading suggestions particularly helpful.—Rob Tench, Old Dominion Univ. Libs., Norfolk, VA

Bibliography. By focusing on not only officers but also enlisted soldiers, this collection of diary entries, letters, autobiography excerpts, and oral history accounts sets itself apart from similar titles. Verdict: Of interest to lower- and upper-level undergraduate military history students seeking primary source documents.—Diane Fulkerson, Univ. of South Florida, Lakeland


Prolific military and political history author Arnold examines the experiences of those on the front lines of combat, from the American Revolution to the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars. Organized by conflict, sections begin with a helpful overview and timeline and conclude with an extensive bibliography. By focusing on not only officers but also enlisted soldiers, this collection of diary entries, letters, autobiography excerpts, and oral history accounts sets itself apart from similar titles. In a letter written during the American Revolution, Joseph Townsend, a Quaker teenager, describes the aftermath during the Revolution, Joseph Townsend, a Quaker teenager, describes the aftermath of the Battle of Brandywine, including details of the number of wounded and dead soldiers. An interview with Brian Taylor, a marine who operated a grenade launcher during the invasion of Iraq, discusses the difficulty of distinguishing friendly civilians from insurgents and vividly describes the chaos of battle and the platoons under attack. Readers will find it easy to locate documents, as each volume contains a useful list. Verdict: Of interest to lower- and upper-level undergraduate military history students seeking primary source documents.—Diane Fulkerson, Univ. of South Florida, Lakeland

Overseen by general editor John R. Shook (philosophy, Univ. at Buffalo), working with an editorial board of four other philosophers, the database’s initial release covers thinkers from North America, Britain, Ireland, and the Middle East (featuring a rich selection of Islamic philosophers over the past 1,400 years). New and revised content will be added twice a year at no extra charge to subscribers and will include individuals from Asia, Latin America, and Africa.

**Usability** In addition to performing basic queries, users can conduct advanced searches by title, author, abstract, and cat-

By Brian T. Sullivan

**Ereviews**

**Bloomsbury Encyclopedia of Philosophers**

Bloomsbury

www.bloomsburyphilosophers.com

By Brian T. Sullivan

**Content** Released in December 2017, this resource features more than 6,500 peer-reviewed entries on individuals who have contributed to the global history of thought and philosophy. Significantly, it broadens the canon by including previously overlooked figures and incorporating civil rights activists, novelists, poets, politicians, scientists, and others. Entries on philosophers John Dewey or David Hume are found alongside those on activist and abolitionist Sojourner Truth and feminist theologian Mary Daly. Thus, Bloomsbury examines the subject through lenses such as economics, law, medicine, literature, and theology, without neglecting traditional philosophy subfields.
encyclopedic list offers detailed accounts of mass shootings from 1966 to 2016. A second collection of writings features expert commentary on key issues such as gun control, gun stockpiling, and prevention. Relevant documents, a detailed index, and a lengthy list of recommended readings conclude the book. This balanced volume effectively juxtaposes practical and theory-based solutions to the problem and includes opposing viewpoints. VERDICT An excellent starting point for student researchers and general readers on a topic that is front-page news on an all-too-frequent basis.—Rob Tench, Old Dominion Univ. Libs., Norfolk, VA


Editor Mills’s (Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace) follow-up to 2001’s Professional Genealogy: A Manual for Researchers, Writers, Editors, Lecturers & Librarians offers seasoned genealogists guidance on everything from vocational opportunities to producing quality reports, proof arguments, and family histories. Although the book covers the same topics as its predecessor—save for additional chapters on forensic genealogy and genetics—the content is fresh, with new authors contributing essays on professional development, legal and ethical issues, business management, research challenges, and the creation of professional and educational products and services such as reviews, periodicals, lectures, and courses. The volume focuses on adherence to the standards of proof and professionalism set forth by the Board for Certification of Genealogists, with sections devoted to research skills and professional products built around an exploration of these standards. VERDICT An essential reference for experienced genealogists looking to develop businesses or ensure that their research products are consistent with professional standards.—Sara Shreve, Newton, KS


This basic but solid encyclopedia answers the who, what, and why of terrorism. Editor Clark (Rand Corporation) provides an excellent introduction that reviews several classic texts on the subject and speculates about the future of terrorism. The book covers domestic and European topics, such as the Oklahoma City bombing and the Irish Liberation Army, but the majority of entries are devoted to Middle Eastern terrorism. Though the work doesn’t unearth new ground, the writing is balanced and thoughtful. Signed articles, see-also references, citations, pictures, 14 primary documents, a chronology of modern terrorist acts, and a detailed index enhance the volume. Clark effectively captures how the scope, characteristics, and nature of terrorism have changed in the past 50 years. VERDICT General readers and students at any level will find this a solid resource.—Rob Tench, Old Dominion Univ. Libs., Norfolk, VA