

9-2019

Conspiracies and Conspiracy Theories in American History

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Original Publication Citation

Tench, R. (2019). Conspiracies and conspiracy theories in American history. *Library Journal*, 144(8), 98-98.

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★ **Conspiracies and Conspiracy Theories in American History.** 2 vols. ABC-CLIO. May 2019. 812p. ed. by Christopher R. Fee & Jeffrey B. Webb. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781440858109. \$198; ebk. ISBN 9781440858116. REF

Ever wondered if we really landed on the moon in 1969, if Franklin Roosevelt knew in advance about Pearl Harbor, or if the murders of Tupac and Biggie are connected? If so, this two-volume set, focusing primarily on events, people, and topics in the United States from the 1950s onward, edited by Fee (English, Gettysburg Coll., PA) and Webb (American history, Huntington Univ., IN), is a must-have. Thematic essays cover six broad subject areas ("business and financial," "military and intelligence,"

are ideal for browsing and providing information for student reports, while piquing the interest of general readers and avoiding the sensationalism that many of these topics could elicit. **VERDICT** This informative compilation on fascinating conspiratorial topics that will continue to be debated for decades will be a solid addition for all libraries.—**Rob Tench, Old Dominion Univ. Libs., Norfolk, VA**

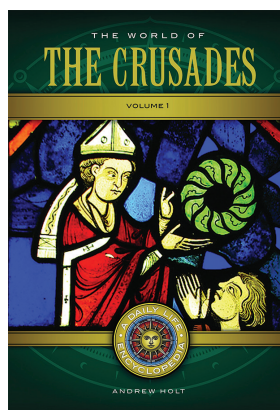
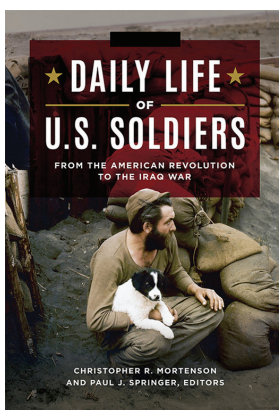
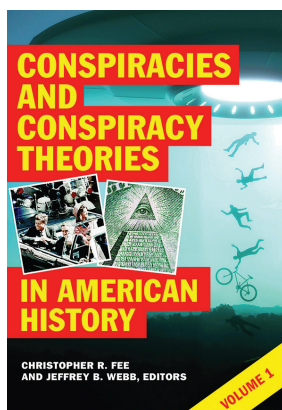
Daily Life of U.S. Soldiers: From the American Revolution to the Iraq War. 3 vols. Greenwood. Jun. 2019. 1139p. ed. by Christopher R. Mortenson & Paul J. Springer. illus. photos. notes. index. ISBN 9781440863585. \$309; ebk. ISBN 9781440863592. HIST

Mortenson (history, Ouachita Baptist Univ.,

primary documents, and a bibliography. This third volume features a general index, yet black-and-white photos and illustrations are neither numerous nor high-quality reproductions. Although encyclopedias are typically used for background information for research, this title's scholarly treatment of its subject makes it an excellent companion to studies of any of the conflicts covered. **VERDICT** Highly recommended for undergraduate majors and graduate students of history or military science, or general adult history buffs.—**Rosanne Cordell, formerly of Northern Illinois Univ., DeKalb**

Holt, Andrew. **The World of the Crusades.** 2 vols. Greenwood. (Daily Life). Jun. 2019. 827p. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781440854613. \$198; ebk. ISBN 9781440854620. HIST

Perennially exploited for various agendas, the Crusades deserve the expert, politically neutral, scholarly attention offered here. Following the series's format, Holt (history, Florida State Coll. at Jacksonville) groups entries under topical headings, with brief introductions. Resources include a chronology (33–1529 CE); an extensive, up-to-date bibliography; 38 primary documents with brief contexts; black-and-white images; and excellent further reading and see-also suggestions. Informative text boxes are cited in the reliable index. Holt's superb introduction provides a nuanced overview, establishes his wide-ranging expertise, and confirms his clear, jargon-free style. He explains historiographic controversies and complexities, debunks long-running myths, and supplies choice details. Did you know that more medieval cookbooks survive in Arabic than in the rest of the world's languages combined? That "Gregorian" chant was developed 200 years after Pope Gregory I? A useful complement is Christopher Tyerman's identically titled volume, which focuses on material remains and includes many attractive images and short essays, making an enticing introduction to the era, while Holt delivers depth. **VERDICT** High school students, undergraduates, and general readers will find this an invaluable and accessible synthesis of traditional sources and current scholarship.—**Patricia D. Lothrop, formerly of St. George's Sch., Newport, RI**



A treasure trove for truth seekers; conflicts since the Revolution; invaluable current scholarship

"political," "popular culture," "science and technology," and "social"), followed by almost 200 alphabetically arranged entries with quotations, see-also references, and further reading. The list of entries, guide to related topics by theme, and detailed index make locating items quick and simple. Contributors detail the basics of general conspiracy theories and track examples through American history. The thoughtful, fact-filled, balanced writings will appeal to scholars and researchers. The short entries

AR; *Politician in Uniform*) and Springer (comparative military studies, Air Command; Staff Coll., Maxwell Air Force Base, AL; *Encyclopedia of Cyber Warfare*) have compiled a survey of the 15 most important U.S. conflicts since the American Revolution. Each battle is extensively reviewed, accompanied by an overview and sections on conscription and volunteers, training, social structure, daily life, religion, popular culture, weaponry, the home front, and more. Each chapter includes a detailed time line,



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