The Presidency

Rob Tench

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Allegiance was inspired by the experiences of actor George Takei, who as a child was imprisoned in a concentration camp for Japanese Americans during World War II; The Scottsboro Boys tackles the imprisonment of nine Black men who were falsely accused of rape. Other productions examine identity, Greenfield writes: Falsettos distinguished itself from shows that depicted LGBTQ+ identity as a source of conflict, and instead offered a matter-of-fact portrayal of queer relationships.

**VERDICT** Capitalizing on the immense popularity of Hamilton, Greenfield introduces musical theater buffs and students of history to potentially lesser-known productions that form an accessible timeline of U.S. history, exploring war, racial and gender inequality, capitalism, and generational discord.—Lisa Henry, Kirkwood P.L., MO

**POLITICAL SCIENCE**


Han (political science, Chapman Univ., CA) provides a brief but thorough explanation of the U.S. presidency, including its role in the Constitutional system of government, the powers of the office, and how presidents from George Washington to Donald Trump have shaped the post. Han clearly, expertly, and succinctly explains and analyzes aspects of the office, including its enumerated, inherent, and implied powers; the presidential selection process; White House communication strategies and relationships with the media; the impact of public opinion; the president’s relationship to other branches of federal government; and the president’s role in policy making and foreign affairs. Han impressively analyzes the evolution and expansion of the presidency over the last 200 years. The lengthy bibliography is an asset for readers who want to dig into the subject, although it would have been helpful to also list relevant resources for further research at the end of each chapter. That minor quibble aside, Han demonstrates that even though the U.S. presidency is arguably the most powerful position in the world, it is constrained by a system of checks and balances. Her concluding chapter, about the future of the presidency and the challenges ahead for prospective office holders, is especially stimulating. **VERDICT** An excellent, balanced resource for high schoolers and undergraduates that’s also accessible to the generalist. Even political junkies with in-depth knowledge of the topic will glean much from the material.—Rob Tench, Old Dominion Univ. Libs., Norfolk, VA


LeMay (emeritus, political science, California State Univ., San Bernardino) begins this overview of civil rights by examining the U.S. government’s historical attempts to guarantee the fundamental rights and liberties of American citizens, with an emphasis on civil rights acts and Constitutional amendments. These he discusses alongside the denial of civil rights to Indigenous peoples, Black Americans, and LGBTQ+ people. There are 10 thoughtful, thoroughly researched essays analyzing struggles for civil rights, written by scholars with varied perspectives and subject areas. The book’s profiles of civil rights organizations and advocates (including the ACLU, the Congress of Racial Equality, the League of Women Voters, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Ida B.
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