American Revolution: The Essential Reference Guide

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HEALTH & MEDICINE


Goode (sociology, State Univ. of New York, Old Westbury) and Rothman (sociology, City Univ. of New York) provide a well-organized overview of the history of pregnancy and birth in the United States, with topics such as midwifery, doula; physician care; natural childbirth; the experiences of Indigenous peoples and the LGBTQIA+ community, including transgender people; media representations; and perinatal health care costs. Data and primary documents include the Sheppard-Towner Act and the Black Maternal Health Omnibus. A chronology details the move from community-based care to professionalized medical-based care. Profiles highlight 22 individuals (Margaret Sanger, Virginia Apgar) and 18 organizations (La Leche League, Planned Parenthood). Ten signed essays share the experiences of miscarriage, adoption, surrogacy, abuse, and more. It would have been beneficial to include an essay on abortion, though it is mentioned in the miscarriage sequences is particularly insightful. Entries are thorough.

VERDICT

Students and general readers curious about the 2000s will find the chapter engaging and the suggested reading lists thorough.—Lisa Henry, Kirkwood P.L., MO


In this comprehensive and accessible installment in Greenwood’s “Pop Goes the Decade” series, historian Hall (The American Superhero: Encyclopedia of Caped Crusaders in History) studies the first decade of the new millennium. Each chapter dissects a medium—sports, TV, literature, and more—and examines its response to 9/11 and the voices that shaped it the most. A decade that began with VHS tapes and Blockbuster Video, CDs and terrestrial radio, pagers and landline telephones, underwent enormous progress in a short span of time. Hall discusses the fast-moving technology that led to streaming services, social media, CGI, and 3-D movies and gives brief histories of everything from reality television to Disney and superhero movies, the late-night talk show wars to the rise of cable news domination, the steroid drug scandal in sports, and the great divide in the political parties. He discusses how the arts reflected the massive conflicts in U.S. society and provided welcome relief from the stress of everyday life.

VERDICT

Students and general readers curious about the 2000s will find the chapters engaging and the suggested reading lists thorough.—Rob Tench, Old Dominion Univ. Libs., Norfolk, VA


In this look at Ronald Reagan’s presidency, Heineman (history, global security studies, Angelo State Univ., TX; The Rise of Con-