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opinion of journalists and his charge of “fake news” are represented here. The work also explores a wide range of viewpoints, from James Fenimore Cooper’s 1838 complaint about the tyranny of the press, to Barack Obama’s 2016 remarks about the polarization of the media. VERDICT A well-curated compilation of important primary documents representing more than 200 years of American aggression toward the media. General readers and students of journalism, communications, history, and political science will find this work useful.—Rob Tench, Old Dominion Univ. Libs., Norfolk, VA

LAW & CRIME
Selzer, Adam. Murder Maps USA: Crime Scenes Revisited; Bloodstains to Ballistics, 1865–1939. Thames & Hudson, Oct. 2021. 224p. ISBN 9780500252598. $35. REF In this engrossing work spanning the end of the Civil War through the start of World War II, Selzer (H.H. Holmes: The True History of the White City Devil) analyzes the scenes of notorious U.S. murders, including the killings of Lizzie Borden’s father and stepmother, the murder of Bobby Franks by Nathan Leopold and Richard Loeb, the kidnaping and murder of Charles Lindbergh’s infant son, and the assassinations of presidents Abraham Lincoln, James A. Garfield, and William McKinley. Selzer explains that this era saw huge technological advances in policing, criminology, and forensics, and the adoption of practices such as handwriting analysis, fingerprinting, and ballistics. Maps are a primary feature of Selzer’s book; each entry contains either a street map or floor plan of the site of the murder with fascinating details such as the murderer’s movements or the location of the victim(s). Each entry also includes a brief description of the murder, expert analysis, and numerous, often gruesome photographs. The volume features a brief introduction about the birth of criminology and modern forensics, a criminology matrix, more than 700 illustrations, and suggestions for further reading. VERDICT Due to the graphic nature of some of the photographs, this book is not recommended for everybody, but readers interested in true crime and forensics will appreciate Selzer’s singular volume.—Dave Pugl, Erl Area P.L., Lake Zurich, IL

LITERATURE
Westfahl, Gary. Science Fiction Literature Through History: An Encyclopedia. 2 vols. Greenwood. Jul. 2021. 766p. ISBN 9781440872129. $63. REF In this work about depictions of the Cold War in pop culture, Frazier (history, Gateway Community Coll., KY; Germany at War) covers nine films and one TV series. For each, he offers a plot synopsis, brief critical analysis, and historical background, then delves into the artistic aspects of the work, its cultural context, and its critical reception. Each entry also includes a list of further reading. The earliest of the films that Frazier examines is from the start of the Cold War (The Third Man, 1949), while the latest (Charlie Wilson’s War, Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy, Bridge of Spies, and the FX show The Americans) are from the 21st century. The book is part of ABC-CLIO’s “Hollywood History” series, which intends to add the accuracy of films and what they say about the era in which they were made. This focus sometimes limits Frazier’s book; for instance, he doesn’t cover Atomic Age monster movies like Them! or communist allegories like Invasion of the Body Snatchers; the most fantastic works are The Manchurian Candidate and From Russia with Love. The USSR produced many great films in the Cold War era, but most didn’t deal with contemporary matters and so fall outside Frazier’s scope. VERDICT It’s difficult to decide whom this volume is suited to. The history is accurate but very brief, while the film discussion is largely consumed by plot synopses. Not recommended.—Robert Mixner, Bartholomew Cty. P.L., Columbus, IN

Hall, Richard A. & others. Robots in Popular Culture: Androids and Cyborgs in the American Imagination. Greenwood. Jul. 2021. 325p. ISBN 9781440873843. $97. REF Hall (Pop Goes the Decade: The 2000s) and contributors Lisa C. Bailey, Keith R. Claridy, and Josh Plock address depictions of robots in pop culture, as well as related issues and moral questions. Thematic essays discuss robots and slavery, robots as heroes and villains, and more. Signed, alphabetically arranged articles offer fascinating examinations of the creature in Frankenstein, the Buffybot on Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Apple’s Siri, and Microsoft’s Tay chatbot. Each article covers the history of a particular robot, discusses the work in which it appears, explores the robot’s purpose, and includes a bibliography, black-and-white images, and references for further reading. Entries indicate when modern robotics and AI have caught up with fiction. For its proper historical perspective of literary robots and AI throughout popular culture, this title works well with Gregory Jerome Hampton’s Imagining Slaves and Robots in Literature, Film, and Popular Culture: Reinventing Yesterday’s Slave with Tomorrow’s Robot. Other works on the topic tend to focus more on the creation, design, and use of robots; tech’s effect on humans, behavior; or specific pop culture robots. VERDICT Fun, thought-provoking examination of contemporary society’s use of robots and the continual evolution of AI and robotics. Will fascinate sci-fi buffs, ethicists, computer scientists, programmers, and robotics engineers.—Laurie Selwyn, formerly at Grayson Cty. Law Lib., Sherman, TX

SOCIAL SCIENCES
Khanna, Nikki & Noriko Matsumoto. Race Relations in America: Examining the Facts. ABC-CLIO. (Contemporary Debates). May 2021. 284p. ISBN 9781440874000. $65. REF In this extremely well-crafted addition to ABC-CLIO’s “Contemporary Debates” series, Khanna and Matsumoto (both sociology, Univ. of Vermont) expertly tackle some of the thorniest topics in current American race relations. They answer 34 questions