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Attacks on the American Press: A Documentary and Reference Guide

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ATLASES

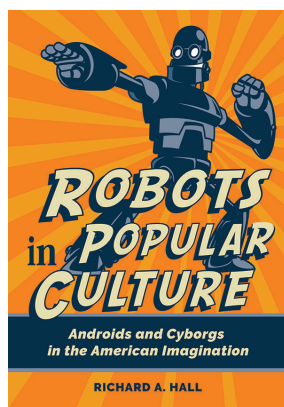
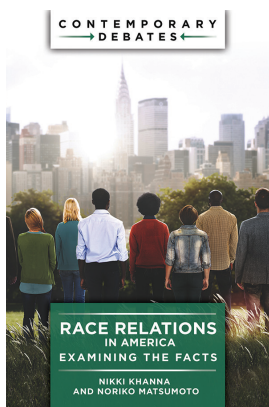
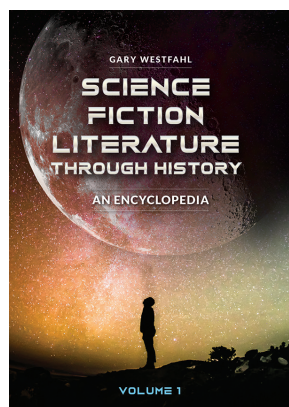
Bucklan, Matthew & Victor Cizek (text) & Jack Dunnington (illus.). *North American Maps for Curious Minds: 100 New Ways To See the Continent. The Experiment: Workman. (Maps for Curious Minds).* Oct. 2021. 208p. ISBN 9781615197484. \$19.95. REF

The authors of this atlas claim no particular cartography expertise—Bucklan is “geographically minded,” while Cizek has a visual arts background—the book’s coverage of North America is fascinating. The atlas aims to present geographical concepts that readers might never have thought of and will find compelling. Its seven sections (Geography, Politics and Power, Nature, Culture and Sports, People and Populations, Food and Health, and Industry and Transport) of-

gest craters and attitudes toward LGBTQ+ people. The atlas is a captivating browse that will unobtrusively enlighten readers and up-end things they thought they knew, like the sizes of Hawai’i and Alaska (huge!) compared to the contiguous United States. Illustrator Dunnington’s accurate, accessible maps will be a visual springboard for lively discussions in classes or around the dinner table. **VERDICT** A great choice for school and public library collections.—**Henrietta Verma, Credo Reference, New York**

Cheshire, James & Oliver Uberti. *Atlas of the Invisible: Maps and Graphics That Will Change How You See the World.* Norton. Nov. 2021. 224p. ISBN 9780393651515. \$40. REF

“What We Face.” Highlights include infographics presenting data on light emissions around the globe, a map of the United States redrawn according to commuter hubs, and stats on bike share programs by city. “What We Face” dramatically demonstrates the effects of climate change through maps of receding glaciers, burn scars across the Earth, and even airplane turbulence. In addition, the volume provides a brief history of the statistical atlas as a form, information about the techniques cartographers use to depict the Earth on a flat page, and suggestions for further reading. The resulting atlas will enable readers to better understand the world and its challenges. Furthermore, as the authors express eloquently in the epilogue, it is designed to inspire readers to act. **VERDICT** This work will appeal to readers with a wide range of interests, including cartography, history, and the environment.—**Dave Pugl, Elia Area P.L., Lake Zurich, IL**



fer 100 total entries on topics that span the continent. Each entry features a large map and a written explanation. About the United States, the atlas presents data like the populations of military veterans in each state and the most common countries of origin for U.S. residents, plus fun items like the number of Waffle House locations in each U.S. latitude. Other infographic maps present data about Canada and Mexico too, and sometimes the 20 other North American nations (in the Caribbean and on the Central American isthmus), including the continent’s big-

The award-winning team of Cheshire and Uberti (*London: The Information Capital; Where the Animals Go: Tracking Wildlife with Technology in 50 Maps and Graphics*) collaborate for the third time in this unique volume. In the preface, Cheshire asserts that this atlas is intended as “an ode to the unseen, to a world of information that cannot be conveyed through text or numbers alone.” The authors uncover this world through striking maps and infographics divided into four chapters, titled “Where We’ve Been,” “Who We Are,” “How We’re Doing,” and

HISTORY

Roberts, Jessica & Adam Maksl. *Attacks on the American Press: A Documentary and Reference Guide.* Greenwood. Jul. 2021. 385p. ISBN 9781440872563. \$111. REF

Assaults on the media are nothing new, Roberts (communication studies, Catholic Univ. of Portugal) and Maksl (journalism and media, Indiana Univ. Southeast) ably argue in this volume that collects 66 primary source documents. The documents chronicle more than two centuries of attacks on the American press, from the Sedition Act of 1798 to the 2018 murder of five *Capital Gazette* journalists in Maryland. Roberts and Maksl examine threats to the press during times of war; criticisms about sensationalism in news media; legal, physical, and political attacks on journalists; perceived media biases; suggestions aimed at improving the media; and attacks on journalists specifically in the era of social media. Included are accounts of and responses to attacks, news reports, interviews, public statements, and tweets. In the entry for each document, the authors include a full citation, the document’s significance, analysis, and a list of further readings. For the most part, the book spans the entire history of the United States, although the last chapter, about social media, includes only documents published since 2016. Not surprisingly, Donald Trump’s



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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 kidnapping 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, Elia Area P.L., Lake Zurich, IL**

LITERATURE

Westfahl, Gary. *Science Fiction Literature Through History: An Encyclopedia*. 2 vols. Greenwood. Jul. 2021. 766p. ISBN 9781440866166. \$204. REF

Westfahl (literature, Univ. of La Verne, CA; editor of *The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Science Fiction and Fantasy*) has written widely on science fiction, but his new guide consists

of totally new content, beginning with a series of historical essays putting the genre in perspective—from “Science Fiction in the Ancient World and the Middle Ages” to “Science Fiction in the Twenty-First Century.” These are followed by thematic essays about the natural sciences and science fiction; literature, films, and television; fine art and graphic novels; gender and sexuality; racial issues in the genre; global science fiction; and more. Alphabetical entries, which comprise the bulk of the two-volume set, discuss authors of science fiction (Isaac Asimov, Octavia Butler, Olaf Stapledon, Roger Zelazny); writers outside the genre who significantly influenced the form (Aristophanes, Franz Kafka, William Shakespeare); subgenres (Black science fiction, gay and lesbian science fiction, space opera, steampunk); particular motifs (androids, extraterrestrial worlds, virtual reality, zombies); and major works (novels *Flatland* and *A Canticle for Leibowitz*, TV program *Doctor Who*, and sci-fi predecessors *The Divine Comedy*, *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, and *The Odyssey*). Entries often include boxed sidebars and brief interviews with many of the living authors. **VERDICT** Although there are other similar guides to science fiction (from Routledge and Cambridge, for example), Westfahl’s clear and lively presentation and comprehensive knowledge and background will appeal to fans of the genre, as well as students (middle school through college) who are researching specific sci-fi authors, works, or themes.—**Marcia G. Welsh, formerly at Dartmouth Coll. Lib., Hanover, NH**

PERFORMING ARTS

Frazier, Paul. *The Cold War on Film*. ABC-CLIO. (Hollywood History). Jul. 2021. 166p. 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 address the accuracy of films and what they say about the eras 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 fantastical 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 human 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

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