

## Reviews

### Social & Behavioral Sciences

how you were raised, or race? Is political affiliation a "social construct" or a genetic predisposition? In this book, Blatt (Marymount Manhattan College) examines biological determinism in the field of political science. Taking a historical approach, she writes about how ideas about race have contributed to the development of political science as a discipline. Her book focuses primarily on 19th- and 20th-century political science research that discusses the concept of human nature in political life. Blatt shows that the predominance of Anglo-Saxons in the discipline early on eventually led to deeper engagement on the topic of race. Subsequently, many scholars felt compelled to integrate the concept into their research. Blatt's work provides an extensive look at various scholars and ideologies that have contributed to the development of political science as an academic discipline. Her book does not provide an answer to the question of what determines an individual's political involvement. Rather, she provides an in-depth examination of how scholars have approached that question and their attempt to answer it. **Summing Up: ★★★** Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.—*S. E. Montgomery, Rollins College*

56-0430

KF11601

MARC

Cicero, Frank, Jr. **Creating the Land of Lincoln: the history and constitutions of Illinois, 1778–1870.** Illinois, 2018. 270p bibl index ISBN 9780252041679 cloth, \$29.95; ISBN 9780252050343 ebook, \$26.95

Cicero presents a history of Illinois, largely through constitutional development. The author chronicles the events leading to statehood, the most significant being the decision by Congress to include the northern lands (what eventually became Chicago and the surrounding area), which became the basis for the political and economic divide in the state; the rural south, which had an affinity for southern states and the Democratic Party, and the developed north, which was ultimately the base for the Republican Party in the state. The 1818, 1847, 1862 (voters rejected this constitution), and 1869 State Constitutional Conventions are presented in detail. The presence of free blacks in the state was a major controversy in 1848 and 1862, even as thousands of young Illinois men fought to preserve the Union. The 1870 Constitution, which remained in force for a century, was the basis for the creation of the "Land of Lincoln," where the changes the Civil War brought about were enshrined in the state's politics. For those interested in state constitutional development, this is a very informative read. **Summing Up: ★★** Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.—*J. F. Kraus, Wagner College*

56-0431

E840

CIP

Flippen, J. Brooks. **Speaker Jim Wright: power, scandal, and the birth of modern politics.** Texas, 2018. 527p index ISBN 9781477315149 cloth, \$35.00; ISBN 9781477316313 ebook, contact publisher for price

*Speaker Jim Wright: Power, Scandal, and the Birth of Modern Politics* is a clearly written, thoroughly researched biography of the former speaker of the House. Drawing from extensive interviews and Wright's archives, this biography offers an engaging and readable account of Wright's rise in Congress and resignation in the wake of an ethics scandal. Flippen (Southeastern Oklahoma State Univ.) tries to avoid getting bogged down in the details of policy and procedure. That might leave some students of Congress unsatisfied, but it keeps the book moving at a rapid pace. It is suitable for scholars and general students of politics. **Summing Up: ★★★** Highly recommended. General readers; upper-division undergraduates through faculty.—*P. Hanson, Grinnell College*

56-0432

E748

CIP

Kaplan, Lawrence S. **Harold Stassen: Eisenhower, the Cold War, and the pursuit of nuclear disarmament.** University Press of Kentucky, 2018. 231p bibl index ISBN 9780813174860 cloth, \$80.00; ISBN 9780813174891 ebook, \$80.00

It is almost inconceivable today that a failed presidential candidate would return to contend in one or more subsequent elections; however, in American history, this was frequently the case. Consider, for example, with Adlai Stevenson for the Democrats in the 1950s and Harold Stassen, the Republican former Minnesota governor who sought the presidency in 1948 and 1952. He became a key Eisenhower administration foreign policy official and then reentered presidential sweepstakes in nearly every election from 1964 to 2000. Kaplan (Kent State) compiled a thorough scholarly account of Stassen and the balance between his unusual ambition and his astute policy making. Readers discover Stassen's abiding internationalism, his remarkably conciliatory policy style, and his unprecedented early concern for nuclear disarmament. Combining incomparable persistence with now nearly forgotten Republican liberalism, Stassen sought to represent the conscience of his party but ironically became a recurring political joke. His strengths and weaknesses are revealed, but his political acumen, unapologetic public service, and foresight, which seem so rare in today's politics, stand out. This account needs to be understood and remembered by today's unfortunately cynical generation. **Summing Up: ★★★** Highly recommended. General readers; upper-division undergraduates through faculty.—*F. S. Pearson, Wayne State University*

56-0433

HQ1390

MARC

Lazarus, Jeffrey V. **Gendered vulnerability: how women work harder to stay in office,** by Jeffrey Lazarus and Amy Steigerwalt. Michigan, 2018. 226p bibl index ISBN 9780472130719 cloth, \$70.00; ISBN 9780472123599 ebook, contact publisher for price

Lazarus and Steigerwalt (both Georgia State) offer a theory of gendered vulnerability that drives the behavior of women in Congress. Women are more likely to think their seat is at risk even if it is not by traditional measures, and they face different barriers that men do in the electoral environment. Because women perceive they are vulnerable to defeat, they emphasize different priorities while they are in office. Women in Congress spend more time doing constituency service; they bring home more pork barrel spending; they sponsor more bills and resolutions; and they more closely represent constituent preferences through proposed legislation and committee assignments. The implications suggest female legislators are better representatives than their male counterparts. This book is a valuable addition to the literature on women and politics, as much of that literature focuses more on getting elected and less on what women do once they are elected. The authors' most significant contribution is their analysis of gender differences in constituent work, which does not rely on self-reporting. **Summing Up: ★★** Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.—*M. Wade, West Chester University of Pennsylvania*

56-0434

E851

MARC

Li, Victor. **Nixon in New York: how Wall Street helped Richard Nixon win the White House.** Fairleigh Dickinson, 2018. 1p bibl index ISBN 9781683930006 cloth, \$120.00; ISBN 9781683930013 ebook, \$114.00

After losing the California governor's race in 1962, Nixon announced the end of his political career, and he accepted a partnership in a prestigious New York City law firm. He became a valuable rainmaker for the firm, and he used his position to reconstitute his political base with wealthy contributors, a deep and talented campaign staff, and enhanced international experience. This culminated in his victory in the 1968 presidential campaign. The assistant managing editor of the American Bar Association's trade journal, Li provides an excellent, straightforward narrative of how this transpired. The author places these transformational years within a quick survey of Nixon's prior political career and a brief overview of his two administrations. The consistency of Nixon's talents

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56-0435

Longley, Kyle. **LBJ's America's year of...**  
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56-0436

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and flaws is evident in each phase of his career. The final chapter treats the water crisis, Texas, 2018. 277p bibl index ISBN 9781477310311 cloth, \$27.95; ISBN 9781477316801 ebook, contact publisher for price

Readers discover Stassen's policy style, and moment. Combining Republican and Democratic strengths and weaknesses in public service, and out. This account is unfortunately cynical. General. —F. S. Pearson,

**56-0435** E847 CIP  
Longley, Kyle. **LBJ's 1968: power, politics, and the presidency in America's year of upheaval.** Cambridge, 2018. 361p bibl index ISBN 9781107193031 cloth, \$29.99; ISBN 9781108141208 ebook, \$24.00

The year 1968 is ancient history to some; to others it seems like only yesterday. It was LBJ's last year as president, and he was visited by trauma after trauma—the Pueblo crisis, the Prague Spring, the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert Kennedy, urban burning and rioting, an antiwar movement, a political uprising by Eugene McCarthy and Robert Kennedy challenging his renomination, and so much more. Johnson quit the political fray in late March 1968, declaring that he would not stand for reelection, but he was still president until January 1969, albeit as a lame duck. His major concern was opening negotiations with North Vietnam in Paris, but he was troubled by much else. With little relief from the daily tedium of the events of that year, 1968 was one darn thing after another. Longley (history and political science, Arizona State Univ.) describes it all well, though he omits a happy event of this important year—Mickey Mantle's last two home runs in the early fall. This volume joins Robert Dallek's *Flawed Giant* (CH, Oct '98, 36-1145), a broad, if somewhat dated, overview. **Summing Up: ★★** Recommended. Lower-division undergraduates through faculty; general readers.—P. D. Travis, *Texas Woman's University*

**56-0436** JK2271 CIP  
Mason, Lilliana. **Uncivil agreement: how politics became our identity.** Chicago, 2018. 183p bibl index ISBN 9780226524542 cloth, \$105.00; ISBN 9780226524405 pbk, \$32.50; ISBN 9780226524689 ebook, \$32.50

Scholars have spent decades debating the basis of partisan attachments and their consequences. This book is based on the argument that much partisanship is based on the social identity theory, which is becoming more salient at a time when partisan divisions are at an all-time high. Mason (Univ. of Maryland, College Park) focuses on the growing tendency of liberals to identify as Democrats and of conservatives to identify as Republicans. The electorate was not well sorted between the two political parties in the past but is now much better sorted according to beliefs and identities. The author moves to the consequences of these identifications. Voters in both camps see each other as dangerous for the future of the country, and they express hostility to those in the other party. To the extent that partisanship and hostility are based on social identities and not issues, policy discussions become more difficult. Mason proposes various approaches to reducing the hostilities derived from divisions based on social identities. She does not always present clear evidence about how important issues are in these divisions, but she does an excellent job of explaining the consequences of the increasing partisan divide for how opposing partisans are seen. **Summing Up: ★★** Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.—J. M. Stonecash, *emeritus, Syracuse University*

**56-0437** HD1694  
McGraw, Seamus. **A thirsty land: the making of an American**

**water crisis.** Texas, 2018. 277p bibl index ISBN 9781477310311 cloth, \$27.95; ISBN 9781477316801 ebook, contact publisher for price

The third and very readable book by journalist McGraw on the intertwined issues of climate change and human exploitation of limited planetary resources, *A Thirsty Land* takes as its subject the complex history of water access, conservation, and usage in Texas from its foundation as a republic to the impact of Hurricane Harvey in 2017. Beginning with the regional geological features of the Texan ecological zones that structure and define the presence or absence of surface water and groundwater, McGraw traces major water management efforts in the state since the 19th century, noting the immediate and long-term impacts of changing technologies and rapid urban growth. Readers will find his explication of the legal history of water laws and legislation, and traditional attitudes toward the nature of water rights, particularly valuable as background to past and current crises. Libraries supporting undergraduate and graduate programs in hydrology, geography, political science, history, public administration, and law will find this a valuable addition to their collections. The list of sources can also be used for collection development on this complicated subject. **Summing Up: ★★** Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through faculty.—R. B. Ridinger, *Northern Illinois University*

**56-0438** HV8491 MARC  
The Oxford handbook of prisons and imprisonment, ed. by John Wooldredge and Paula Smith. Oxford, 2018. 745p bibl index ISBN 9780199948154 cloth, \$150.00; ISBN 9780199948161 ebook, contact publisher for price

Wooldredge and Smith lead a team of over 50 contributors who wrote 30 essays divided into six broad topics. Each focuses on trends since the 1970s. A few read more like annotated literature reviews than overviews. The documentation is exceptional, and includes lengthy references and many peer-reviewed articles. The writing style is much more scholarly and thorough than similar titles such as Jeffrey Ferro's *Prisons* (CH, May '06, 43-5031). The editors introduce their work as a resource for graduate students and professionals. Undergraduates can certainly benefit from the essays if they are able to digest the academic prose. Some essays are broken down into more manageable segments. The essays adequately cover material in about 20 pages. The contributors are careful not to push political or social justice agendas. Controversial topics such as private prisons and mass incarceration are covered in the same unbiased style as drugs and prisons. There is some repetition and duplication between the essays. The imprisonment boom of the late 20th century, privatization, and supermax prisons receive a lot of attention throughout. **Summing Up: ★★** Highly recommended. Upper-division undergraduates through professionals.—W. M. Fontane, *McNeese State University*

**56-0439** JK1967 CIP  
Reilly, Shauna. **The resilient voter: stressful polling places and voting behavior,** by Shauna Reilly and Stacy G. Ulbig. Lexington Books, 2018. 179p bibl index ISBN 9781498533522 cloth, \$95.00; ISBN 9781498533539 ebook, \$90.00; ISBN 9781498533539 ebook, contact publisher for price

Reilly (Northern Kentucky Univ.) and Ulbig (Sam Houston State) hypothesize that stress introduced into the voting process can have negative consequences for voters, causing some to decline to complete their ballots or to vote in ways inconsistent with their true policy preferences. Compelling introductions to each chapter pull from recent events covered in the news media and in previous research. The new contribution is data from a mock election experiment conducted at a large undergraduate university, with participants randomly assigned to having to wait to cast their ballots or being challenged at the polling place