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Reforging the White Republic: Race, Religion, and American Nationalism, 1865-1898 (Book Review)

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Social & Behavioral Sciences

Web Virtual Library's *History: Iraq* <<http://vlib.iue.it/history/asia/Iraq/index.html>>. **Summing Up:** Recommended. General and undergraduate libraries.—*J. C. Woods, Davis & Elkins College*

43-4850 DS121 2005-40236 CIP
 Weitzman, Steven. **Surviving sacrilege: cultural persistence in Jewish antiquity.** Harvard, 2005. 193p index afp ISBN 0674017080, \$39.95

This is an intriguing, scholarly investigation into the intellectual techniques of Jewish survival after the catastrophic destruction of the two centers of Jewish worship and identity: the First Temple in 586 BCE and the Second Temple in 70 CE. On the basis of close study of the historian Josephus, Books of the Maccabees, Roman texts, the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the Bible, Weitzman (Jewish studies, Indiana Univ.) concludes that after 586 BCE, "story-telling," or claims about survival, hidden ritual objects, and restoration, helped preserve cultural identity. Under Greek rule in the second century BCE, Jewish survival techniques involved negotiation, war, and new rituals, including the holiday of Hanukkah. Under Roman rule, Jews kept foreigners out of the Temple sanctuary by convincing them of its aesthetic sanctity. After 70 CE, some Jews contended ritual objects had been hidden in the desert and would serve to revive the Temple in the future; others may have set up a "virtual Temple." In order to ensure its survival in the 2000 years since then, rabbis transformed Judaism through prayer, synagogue focus, study, and a rich communal life. No bibliography, but there are rich notes and comparisons with other cultures. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above.—*B. Weinstein, emeritus, Howard University*

■ **North America**

43-4851 F380 2005-5034 CIP
 Anderson, R. Bentley. **Black, white, and Catholic: New Orleans interracialism, 1947-1956.** Vanderbilt, 2005. 292p bibl index afp ISBN 0826514839, \$45.00

Using Jesuit archival materials available to him because of his membership in the order, but not available to others, Anderson (Saint Louis Univ.) has constructed an important study of one of the early vestiges of the Civil Rights Movement in the South. He begins with information on the background of interracialism in the southern Catholic Church as far back as 1917, but he focuses primarily on events that occurred in New Orleans beginning in the years just after WW II; he ends with the failure of attempts to foster interracialism in 1956. These were years during which Louisiana's political structure reaccommodated the race issue, largely absent during the years of class-based politics started by Huey Long. The state government and many ordinary citizens created an atmosphere in which efforts at racial conciliation seemed doomed to fail, the former by adopting measures to block desegregation efforts, the latter by organizing White Citizens' Councils. As Anderson notes, however, these efforts provided a model for later efforts that were successful. This important addition to the history of the foundations of the Civil Rights Movement deserves a place in library collections across the country. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. All levels/libraries.—*J. P. Sanson, Louisiana State University at Alexandria*

43-4852 E98 2005-43617 CIP
 Banner, Stuart. **How the Indians lost their land: law and power on the frontier.** Belknap, Harvard, 2005. 344p index afp ISBN 0674018710, \$29.95

On the surface, this looks like one more of those books describing the dispossession of Indians from their lands, but that is the problem with judging a book by its title. Banner's work requires close and careful (re-)reading, but it rewards readers for the effort. Combining both British and US land policies, law professor Banner (UCLA) takes on all the old adages about Indians having been tricked out of their land. He asks readers to consider the transfers from a different perspective and accompany him to a much more insightful and rewarding analysis—that Indian land sales, voluntary or not, fall someplace between two extremes of conquest and contract. Banner also suggests considering the elements of power and elements of

law in the analysis. From his perspective, the dispossession of Indian land takes on a much more complex history. Banner's consideration of the property/sovereignty issue, if applied, will cause those who see the two issues as synonymous to reevaluate their arguments. It should also cause some professors to rewrite a few lectures before next semester. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. All levels/libraries.—*L. Graves, South Plains College*

43-4853 FC3061 Can. CIP
 Baskerville, Peter A. **Sites of power: a concise history of Ontario.** Oxford, 2005. 296p index afp ISBN 0195418921 pbk, \$29.95

This is a well-written, useful economic and social outline of Ontario's history. Baskerville (Univ. of Victoria) states that it "is a significant updated version of *Ontario: Image, Identity, and Power*, published by Oxford Press in 2002 as part of its illustrated History of Canada series" with 30 percent more text and fewer images. The earlier edition is more attractive, with color photos, larger print, brighter paper, and better binding. The additional text in the newer edition is informative, but the updating is less than two pages, and it is not clear why a new edition with a different name was necessary. The author has a keen sense of social justice, and he convincingly describes the consistent inequities suffered by women, Native people, and people of non-English descent in Ontario's history. The narrative concerning the 19th and early 20th centuries is particularly strong, but noticeably weakens for the most recent decades. The critical treatment of the Harris government, while perhaps justified, is unbalanced. The book's greatest strength is the 33 pages of excellent, extensive notes that offer encouragement to more extensive reading. Libraries that own the 2002 edition can pass up this one. **Summing Up:** Recommended. General and undergraduate collections.—*P. T. Sherrill, emeritus, University of Arkansas at Little Rock*

E 43-4854 [Internet Resource]
The Bisbee Deportation of 1917
 URL: <http://www.library.arizona.edu/exhibits/bisbee/index.html>

[Visited Jan'06] On July 12, 1917, over 1,000 copper miners in Bisbee, Arizona, were loaded onto livestock railcars and forcibly transported across state lines to Columbus, New Mexico. Library science program interns working in the special collections department of the University of Arizona library have created a relatively straightforward site that tells a compelling story, well supported by primary and secondary material. The site, which lacks search capabilities but is easily navigable, employs a variety of techniques for displaying material, including manuscripts, official documents, photographs, published memoirs, interviews, letters, articles, and maps. Some of the documents are presented in their original format, while others have been transcribed for easier reading. The transcriptions would have been better served had they been accompanied by images of the original documents.

The site is designed to be a research collection that can be utilized on several levels. Those new to the topic are introduced to the subject through a concise overview and many secondary source readings and images. More in-depth investigation is supported with a substantial collection of primary source material. The authors have provided demographic data about the deportees in a spreadsheet, allowing researchers to create their own interpretations of who the deportees were. What makes this site stand out is its effectiveness for middle and high school social studies teachers. The "Teacher's Corner" contains lesson plans with activities, worksheets, and supporting material from this and other sites. Although this feature was specifically created for Arizona state standards for proficiencies, it can be used by any teacher focusing on early-20th-century labor history. Despite an occasional dead link, indicating a need for continued maintenance, this is a high-quality site that supports exploration of this significant event in US labor history. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Labor history and education collections; pre-college, public, and undergraduate libraries.—*J. H. Pollitz, Oregon State University*

43-4855 E661 2004-21168 CIP
 Blum, Edward J. **Reforging the white Republic: race, religion, and American nationalism, 1865-1898.** Louisiana State, 2005. 356p bibl index afp ISBN 0807130524, \$54.95

In this welcome study of late-19th-century US religion, race, and nationalism, Blum (Univ. of Notre Dame) convincingly argues that Protestant Christians played a formative role in the "reforging" of the "antebellum white republic" after the Civil War and the early phases of Reconstruction left it in tatters. The book breaks new ground by demonstrating the centrality of religion to this cultural and political transformation. Blum maintains that the Civil War and its immediate aftermath temporarily destabilized the white republic, in part by bringing to the South a small cohort of radical evangelical northern Protestants who advanced a bold, though short-lived, civic nationalism that undermined the historic identification of whiteness with citizenship. Yet as official Reconstruction wound down, other northern white Protestants helped to reconstruct an ethnic nationalism that effectively excluded blacks from civic participation. The national reunion they preached, Blum shows, implicitly and sometimes explicitly demanded a departure from the cause of racial equality. Suggestive chapters offer fresh interpretations of D. L. Moody, Frances Willard, the yellow fever epidemic of 1878, the missionary movement, US imperialism, and W. E. B. Du Bois. **Summing Up:** Highly recommended. Upper-level undergraduates and above.—*R. B. Bademan, Sacred Heart University*

43-4856 E382 2005-42178 CIP
Brands, H.W. **Andrew Jackson, his life and times.** Doubleday, 2005.
620p bibl index ISBN 0385507380, \$35.00

In this well-written, sympathetic biography, which highlights many aspects of Andrew Jackson's personal life and public career, Brands (Univ. of Texas, Austin) supports the common views of Jackson as the most colorful and controversial political figure in the antebellum US. The author contends that Jackson can only be understood if one recognizes the underpinnings that sustained him throughout his career. Unfortunately, Brands's emphasis on Jackson's pre-presidential years results in a less than adequate discussion of several important national issues. In particular, Brands's discussion of Jackson's program to move the eastern Indians to lands west of the Mississippi offers no substantive discussion of the guile, craft, and force exercised in carrying out that program. Brands omits discussion of the president's desire to censor antislavery publications that he labeled incendiary, nor does he mention the sack of several post offices by antiabolitionists. Hopefully, this book will engender a much-needed discussion of Andrew Jackson and Jacksonian Democracy. It should be read in conjunction with Michael Rogin's *Fathers and Children* (1975), Edward Pessen's *Jacksonian America* (1969), and Russell B. Nye's *Fettered Freedom* (1949). **Summing Up:** Recommended. Public, general, and undergraduate libraries.—*L. B. Gimelli, emeritus, Eastern Michigan University*

43-4857 JK1726 2004-58501 CIP
Brown, Richard Harvey. **Culture, capitalism, and democracy in the New America.** Yale, 2005. 355p bibl index afp ISBN 0300100256, \$37.50

Brown (1940-2003) died soon after submitting the completed manuscript of this book, which reflects the scope and depth of his scholarship. Although he was a sociology professor at the University of Maryland, he had ties with the departments of comparative literature, Latin American studies, American studies, and speech communication. Brown approaches the now common themes of transition from industrial to postindustrial, from modern to postmodern, and from national to global society from the perspective of a number of related questions: "How can we distinguish Americanization and globalization?" "What aspects of America simply reflect more global social processes, and which have their origin in the United States?" These are timely questions, and Brown deserves high marks for providing chapter-length, sophisticated analyses of topics ranging from US exceptionalism, democracy, politics, and religion, to conceptions of selfhood, genders, and generations, and the postmodern transformation of art. Unfortunately, the absence of a concluding chapter leaves the reader somewhat unsatisfied. At the same time, this may be exactly the kind of book needed by prepared students in courses in American studies or globalization. **Summing Up:** Recommended. Upper-division undergraduates and above.—*M. Oromaner, formerly, Hudson County Community College*

43-4858 KF224 2004-59889 CIP
Davis, John W. **Goodbye, Judge Lynch: the end of a lawless era in**

Wyoming's Big Horn Basin. Oklahoma, 2005. 266p bibl index afp ISBN 0806136707, \$32.95

Western "rough" frontier justice, lynching, and vigilantism are interrelated topics that continue to captivate the scholarly and popular imaginations. Attorney Davis charts the demise of vigilantism during the decades bracketing the turn of the 19th century in north central Wyoming's Big Horn Basin. The country was (and is) rough, relatively uninhabited, largely public domain, an area contested by sheep herders and cattlemen; it was also far removed from the center of Wyoming's legal and political power (located mostly in the southern part of the region). Davis meticulously combs through legal records and newspapers in reporting a number of sensational and colorful murder trials that ended in lynchings for the convicted. The writing is readable and well documented, though the author occasionally loses sight of his thesis (the triumph of a more modern, more humane, more "just" legal system over irrational vigilantism). This is a good companion to two recent works on lynching and vigilantism: Frederick Allen's *A Decent, Orderly Lynching* (2004), which tracks Montana vigilantism, and Michael Pfeifer's *Rough Justice: Lynching and American Society, 1874-1947* (CH, Feb'05, 42-3613). Photos and maps accompany the text. **Summing Up:** Recommended. General readers.—*K. Edgerton, Montana State University at Billings*

43-4859 HV6446 2004-65051 CIP
English, T. J. **Paddy whacked: the untold story of the Irish-American gangster.** Regan Books, 2005. 468p bibl index afp ISBN 0060590025, \$27.95

Thanks to the popularity of *The Godfather* movies, most Americans associate Sicilians with the criminal underworld. English, an organized-crime expert, argues that from the 1840s to 1929, the Irish dominated the underworld. In this entertaining account, English points out that whereas the Sicilians craved nationwide public attention, the Irish schemed in the shadows, keeping their dealings local. Using personal interviews, manuscripts, crime commission reports, criminal trial transcripts, and FBI-generated wiretaps, the author gives a cursory examination of organized crime in New York, Chicago, Boston, New Orleans, Kansas City, and Cleveland. Irish dominance of the underworld ended in Chicago with the 1929 St. Valentine's Day Massacre. To stanch the inevitable crackdown on their illicit Prohibition activities, Sicilian mobsters formed the Syndicate, a governing body designed to direct future decisions. The gangsters also outlawed Irish participation in the governing body, relegating them to the fringe of the criminal world. Afterward, Irish hoodlums entered the labor movement or became independent contractors. By the end of the century, the remnants of Irish organized crime succumbed to Irish-on-Irish violence and diligent law enforcement. **Summing Up:** Recommended. General and undergraduate collections.—*P. G. Connors, Michigan Legislative Service Bureau*

43-4860 F349 MARC
Evers, Medgar Wiley. **The autobiography of Medgar Evers: a hero's life and legacy revealed through his writings, letters, and speeches,** ed. with commentaries by Myrlie Evers-Williams and Manning Marable. Civitas Books/HarperCollins, 2005. 352p ISBN 0465021778, \$26.00

Strictly speaking, this is not an autobiography, but it is autobiographical. This is evident in the speeches and other documents in the book, which give readers a strong sense of the man who did so much for freedom in Mississippi. Some documents are reports to the national office of the NAACP, in which Evers reflects the policies of the organization, but other papers reveal his frustrations with its legalistic approach. His wife, Myrlie, contributes her strong feelings about her husband's beliefs. Especially noteworthy is her touching account of the couple's awareness that his death was always possible, and in June of 1963, very probable. Historian Marable (Columbia Univ.) contributes introductions to each chronological section of the book and provides historical facts and interpretations of the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi, the nation, and the world. Undoubtedly, other studies of Medgar Evers and the Civil Rights Movement in Mississippi will follow that will add to our knowledge and understanding of him and his generation. **Summing Up:** Recommended. General and undergraduate collections.—*L. H. Grothaus, emeritus, Concordia University*