

Montgomery isn't the only general to come off badly in this account but, in the end, neither he nor his subordinates accepted blame for defeat, passing it onto others. **VERDICT** Casual history readers should expect a steep learning curve. Best suited for military history enthusiasts.—**David Keymer, Cleveland**

Boyd, Julia. *Travelers in the Third Reich: The Rise of Fascism: 1919–1945.*

Pegasus. Aug. 2018. 464p. photos. notes. index. ISBN 9781681777825. \$28.95; ebk. ISBN 9781681778433. HIST

Looking back at the Nazis' rise to power before World War II, we wonder how they were allowed to build up to such terrible acts without much censure or resistance. Even outsiders, such as the many British and American tourists, students, businessmen, government officials, and artists who traveled to Germany, seemed to have turned a blind eye. It's their thoughts, feelings, and actions that Boyd (*A Dance with the Dragon*) brings to life, through their correspondence and other records, to offer an understanding of how U.S. and British travelers viewed Germany and to answer successfully the question of why even those who witnessed German propaganda often failed to outright condemn the actions of Hitler's regime. The author explores the feelings of kinship U.S. and British citizens felt toward Germans during and after World War I; their love of German culture and countryside; how confusing it was to interpret propaganda and define fascism; and the disbelief that the warm, hospitable Germans they met were capable of such heinous acts. **VERDICT** This compelling, intricate, and meticulous work of how outsiders viewed Hitler's Germany will appeal to readers of World War II and 20th-century history.—**Heidi Uphoff, Sandia National Laboratories, NM**

Brigham, Robert K. *Reckless: Henry Kissinger and the Tragedy of Vietnam.*

PublicAffairs. Sept. 2018. 320p. maps. notes. index. ISBN 9781610397025. \$28; ebk. ISBN 9781610397032. HIST

In this work, Brigham (history, international relations, Vassar Coll.; *Iraq, Vietnam, and the Limits of American Power*) regards controversial secretary of state Henry Kissinger as arrogant, flawed, and someone whose diplomacy was largely responsible for the Vietnam War's disastrous outcome. Having served as President Richard Nixon's national security advisor and as secretary of state under Nixon and Gerald Ford, the "lone cowboy" shut out Secretary of State William Rogers, Secretary of Defense Melvin Laird, South Vietnam President Nguyen Van Thieu, and even Nixon from critical foreign policy decisions. Kissinger's bluster,

according to the author, did not intimidate Le Duc Tho, North Vietnam's chief negotiator, however; who never wavered from demanding a unilateral U.S. troop withdrawal. Kissinger is especially faulted for failing to link military actions with political consequences. Although Brigham is not the first to condemn Kissinger's Vietnam diplomacy (see Greg Grandin's *Kissinger's Shadow*), his conclusions draw from newly released records and archives. **VERDICT** Vietnam-era scholars and informed audiences fascinated by Kissinger will welcome the author's insights. See also Nial Ferguson's *Kissinger 1923–1968: The Idealist* and Jeremi Suri's *Henry Kissinger and the American Century* for sympathetic appraisals.—**Karl Helicher, formerly with Upper Merion Twp. Lib., King of Prussia, PA**

Chamberlin, Paul Thomas. *The Cold War's Killing Fields: Rethinking the Long Peace.*

Harper. Jul. 2018. 640p. maps. notes. index. ISBN 9780062367204. \$29.99; ebk. ISBN 9780062367228. HIST

Chamberlin (history, Columbia Univ.; *The Global Offensive*) convincingly shows that the Cold War (1945–90) was neither cold nor solely a confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union. Twenty million people were killed in bloodbaths that placed political ideology and religious fundamentalism above citizens' welfare, as emerging third-world nations sought independence from former colonial empires. The author asserts that in terms of carnage and destruction, the Cold War must be considered along with both World Wars. Chamberlin identifies three waves of Cold War mass conflicts: East Asia (1945–59), Global Communism (1961–79), and Religious Wars (1975–90), and provides vivid descriptions of specific battles from each period in China, Korea, Southeast Asia, East Asia, and the greater Middle East. This deeply researched account draws on recently declassified CIA records that will shock those who view the conflict as an exercise in superpower diplomacy. **VERDICT** Chamberlin has done for the Cold War era what Fredrik Logevall's *Choosing War* did for the Vietnam War. Historians and other informed readers will find much to consider in this significant revisionist work.—**Karl Helicher, formerly with Upper Merion Twp. Lib., King of Prussia, PA**

Dolin, Eric Jay. *Black Flags, Blue Waters: The Epic History of America's Most Notorious Pirates.*

Liveright: Norton. Sept. 2018. 416p. illus. maps. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781631492105. \$29.95; ebk. ISBN 9781631492112. HIST

Dolin has penned masterly histories of North American whaling (*Leviathan*), light-

houses (*Brilliant Beacons*), and now piracy. The golden age of piracy (late 1600s to early 1700s) is well known, with accounts ranging from Robert Louis Stevenson's classic adventure *Treasure Island* to David Cordingly's history *Under the Black Flag*, which dismantled Hollywood myths about buccanniers and swashbucklers. But Dolin focuses on pirates who raided or sought refuge along the Atlantic seaboard of colonial America, influencing politics and society. Pirates injected gold and loot into cash-poor communities, boosting local economies. Colonial governors and merchants outfitted pirate expeditions or took bribes to look the other way as pirate ships resupplied or repaired in coastal waters. Other colonials fought piracy, while pirates attacked the colonies—the notorious Blackbeard once threatened to sack Charleston, SC. Others were privateers, sanctioned by British or colonial authorities to raid "enemy" shipping. Dolin points out that pirates were mostly hardheaded entrepreneurs who relied on intimidation rather than brute force. **VERDICT** A colorful and well-researched study of piracy's glory days, rooted in historical context. Sure to appeal to pirate enthusiasts as well as serious researchers.—**Michael Rodriguez, Univ. of Connecticut, Storrs**

Eisen, Norman. *The Last Palace: Europe's Turbulent Century in Five Lives and One Legendary House.*

Crown. Sept. 2018. 416p. maps. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780451495785. \$28; ebk. ISBN 9780451495808. SOC SCI

Debut author Eisen (senior fellow, Brookings Inst.) tells the history of a remarkable mansion and its times through the eyes of its owners and guardians. The palace's architecture and interior design became an obsession for Czech industrialist and banker Otto Petschek even before he began construction in 1926. To the detriment of his family, Petschek's relationship with his children deteriorated as he pursued his vision, which completed before his death in 1934. Nazi General Rudolph Toussaint and U.S. ambassadors Laurence Steinhardt and Shirley Temple Black subsequently lived in the villa. It is through their experiences that events such as the Nazi occupation, Soviet dominance, the Cold War, the Prague Spring, and the Velvet Revolution unfold. Today the mansion and its treasures remain remarkably intact, owing to the efforts of longtime estate caretaker Adolf Pokorny and sheer luck. The experiences of Eisen's mother, Frieda, a Czech Holocaust survivor, put those of the Jewish Petscheks in perspective. When Eisen becomes U.S. ambassador to the Czech Republic, Frieda's story comes full circle. **VERDICT** This fascinating work

will appeal especially to those interested in 20th-century history and architecture.—
Laurie Unger Skinner, Highland Park P.L., IL

★ **Freeman, Joanne B. *The Field of Blood: Violence in Congress and the Road to Civil War*. Farrar. Sept. 2018. 480p. illus. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780374154776.**

\$28; ebk. ISBN 9780374717612. HIST
Benjamin French, a New Hampshire native, spent more than three decades living and working in Washington, DC, first as a clerk and then clerk of the House of Representatives. Little escaped his attention, and several details were recorded in his voluminous diary. This unique source, used to great effect by historian Freeman (history, Yale Univ.; *Affairs of Honor*), helps to uncover the rowdy and violent behavior in the House that mirrored the wider society in the decades preceding the American Civil War. Behind the fistfights, guns, knives, and duels lied a deeper threat the author describes as a process of disunion. Southerners, with their deeply ingrained code of honor, who viewed criticism of slavery as a personal affront, bullied House members who crossed them, using duel challenges or procedural rules to silence debate. Freeman traces how regional and party differences solidified into two intractable and hostile camps. Congressional violence was but a telling symptom of the deepening sectional and political divide preceding the Civil War. **VERDICT** A thought-provoking and insightful read for anybody interested in American politics in the lead up to the Civil War.—**Chad E. Statler, Westlake Porter P.L., Westlake, OH**

Hockenos, Matthew D. *Then They Came for Me: Martin Niemöller, the Pastor Who Defied the Nazis*. Basic. Sept. 2018. 336p. photos. notes. index. ISBN 9780465097869.

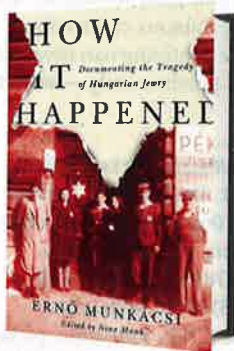
\$30; ebk. ISBN 9780465097876. HIST
“First they came for the Communists, and I did not speak out—because I was not a Communist... Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.” These words by German Lutheran pastor Martin Niemöller (1892–84) have been widely used to support many social injustice protests, but few know the man behind the text. Using extensive research, Hockenos (history, Skidmore Coll.; *A Church Divided*) writes a nuanced, well-rounded analysis of Niemöller’s transformation from fervent nationalist and supporter of the Nazi regime to opponent of Hitler’s attempts to control the Lutheran Church in Germany. After his arrest and imprisonment in concentration camps for his opposition, Niemöller continued to attract controversy following World War II during his visits to the United States. Some believed his actions

were akin to Martin Luther; others felt he was unapologetic about his nationalism. **VERDICT** Best suited for researchers, especially those interested in the history of the Lutheran Church or the history of Germany around the time of World War II.—**Terri Lent, Patrick Henry High Sch., Ashland, VA**

Kirkpatrick, David D. *Into the Hands of the Soldiers: Freedom and Chaos in Egypt and the Middle East*. Viking. Aug. 2018. 384p. maps. notes. index. ISBN 9780735220621.

\$28; ebk. ISBN 9780735220645. HIST

The conflicts and uprisings seen across the Arab region can be traced back to politicians seeking absolute power, and while strides have been made toward a more diplomatic direction, there is still much further to go. This is the conclusion laid out in this first book by *New York Times* international correspondent Kirkpatrick who conducted on-the-ground reporting while serving as Cairo bureau chief from 2011 to 2015; a time when the Arab world made headlines for revolting against long-standing suppressive governments. Kirkpatrick recaps former



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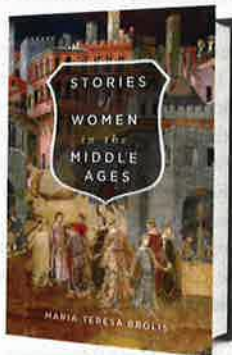


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