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**Bringing down the Colonel: a sex scandal of the Gilded Age, and the “powerless” woman who took on Washington, Patricia Miller (book review)**

Kathleen McCallister  
*William & Mary*, [krmccallister@wm.edu](mailto:krmccallister@wm.edu)

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years he lived in Vienna. Once in power, Hitler exacted revenge by placing the Archduke's sons in a concentration camp, even as their nephews served in the German armed forces and the Third Reich honored their aunts as mothers. Longo interviewed a number of Habsburg descendants, telling the heartbreaking story of the orphaned royals but also the bravery and courage of conviction it took for them to uphold their beliefs and resist in the face of evil. **VERDICT** The author's in-depth research paints a vivid picture of this family, producing a richly detailed portrait that will appeal to readers interested in the origins of both world wars and European royal history.—**Chad E. Statler, Westlake Porter P.L., Westlake, OH**

**Miller, Patricia. *Bringing Down the Colonel: A Sex Scandal of the Gilded Age, and the "Powerless" Woman Who Took On Washington*. Farrar. Nov. 2018. 384p. illus. bibliog. index. ISBN 9780374252663.**

**\$28; ebk. ISBN 9780374715625. HIST** Madeline Pollard's claim against Col. William Breckinridge, an illustrious Kentucky congressman, was shocking in both its target and assertions. Not only had Pollard been seduced by the married Breckenridge as a teenager, she'd been his mistress for nearly a decade afterward, swayed by assurances that they'd eventually marry—assurances proved false when Breckinridge quickly married another woman after his wife's death. With no other recourse, Pollard sued Breckenridge for breach of promise; the resulting trial was one of the most dramatic scandals of late Victorian America and a convergence of the era's shifting views on women, morality, and sexual double standards. Journalist Miller occasionally pauses the story of Pollard's suit to tie in threads of other women in the trial's orbit, such as Jennie Tucker, hired by Breckenridge to spy on Pollard, and Breckenridge's daughter Sophonisba, an aspiring lawyer left to tend the household while her father struggled in court. **VERDICT** Thoroughly detailed and thoughtful; worth a read for anyone interested in American women's history.—**Kathleen McCallister, Coll. of William & Mary**

**Schonpflug, Daniel. *A World on Edge: The End of the Great War and the Dawn of a New Age*. Metropolitan: Holt. Oct. 2018. 320p. bibliog. ISBN 9781627797627. \$30; ebk. ISBN 9781627797610. HIST**

From "Flanders Fields" and the last ghastly charges between trenches to the parades for the Harlem Hellfighters and celebrations throughout Europe, historian Schonpflug (Free Univ., Berlin) explores the changed world caused by World War I by following the lives of both ordinary and famous

people during the last stages of the war. He succeeds in documenting the vastly transformed landscape as well as the dashed hopes for world peace in this book that follows history solely in order to provide context to the people chronicled. The epilog gives the final disposition of nearly two dozen actors in this play. Schonpflug profiles familiar names such as President Harry Truman and German politician Rudolf Hess along with lesser-known names such as teacher Moina Michael, who conceived of using the poppy as a symbol of remembering those who served in the Great War. African American war hero Henry Johnson dies alone in 1929, not recognized for his valor until posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor in 2015. **VERDICT** This solid read sets up 20th-century history for casual readers and serves as a stark reminder to historians.—**Harry Willems, Great Bend, KS**

## LAW & CRIME

**Hernandez, Anabel. *A Massacre in Mexico: The True Story Behind the Missing 43 Students*. Verso. Oct. 2018. 432p. tr. from Spanish by John Washington. index. ISBN 9781788731485. \$26.95; ebk. ISBN 9781788731515. CRIME**

On September 26, 2014, 43 male students from the Ayotzinapa Rural Teachers' College went missing in Iguala, Guerrero, Mexico. The group, traveling in a borrowed bus, were on their way to protest cuts in their operating funds. Explanations for their disappearance were given, but none appeared to "hold water." In this volume, Hernandez, one of Mexico's leading investigative journalists, now living in the United States, has literally put her own life in jeopardy to offer a possible account of what actually took place. Hernandez contends that crimes of violence, like this one, are often committed for political reasons, and that the drug trade is an important factor. For example, she surmises that the bus in which the students were riding might have been mistaken for one carrying vast amounts of heroin. Hernandez writes fluidly, with meticulous details to back up her case. **VERDICT** A powerful investigation for fans of true crime and nonfiction about the international drug trade.—**Frances O. Sandiford, formerly with Green Haven Correctional Facility Lib., Stormville, NY**

## POLITICAL SCIENCE

**Cass, Oren. *The Once and Future Worker: A Vision for the Renewal of Work in America*. Encounter. Nov. 2018. 280p. ISBN 9781641770149. \$25.99; ebk. ISBN 9781641770156. POL SCI**

Cass (research fellow, Manhattan Inst.) presents a blend of free-market ideology and

repackaged conservative social criticism. Hard work in modern America is underappreciated and overregulated, Cass contends. Environmental and safety regulations do not consider the trade-off between lasting public goods such as less air pollution vs. the short-term economic benefit of jobs in polluting industries. Cass laments immigration of unskilled workers, partisan labor union bosses, and the loss of societal sanctions on issues such as single motherhood, idleness, and personal responsibility. Appearing throughout is the strawman of the leftist, bourgeois do-gooder who pushes income transfers, statist social and economic policies, and undermines "traditional" American values. The early citation of Charles Murray, noted author of controversial works on racial intellectual differences, makes the ideological thrust of the text clear. **VERDICT** A useful overview of current libertarian belief, supported by an overlay of conservative scholarship. For readers interested in American economic policy from a rightist perspective.—**Duncan Stewart, Univ. of Iowa Libs., Iowa City**

**Meacham, Jon & others. *Impeachment: An American History*. Modern Library. Oct. 2018. 304p. notes. index. ISBN 9781984853783. \$26; ebk. ISBN 9781984853790. POL SCI**

American history authors Meacham, Peter Baker, Timothy Naftali, and Jeffrey A. Engel come together to offer a comprehensive and timely look at impeachment throughout U.S. history. An introduction to the background, discussion, and vote to add impeachment to the U.S. Constitution at the 1787 Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia is provided first with the intent to explore what the concept meant to the Constitution's framers, who, according to Engel, saw George Washington's political integrity as a model to be followed by his successors. The work's remaining sections provide an accessible narrative about the three instances of U.S. impeachment: the trial of Andrew Johnson in 1868, in which it was unclear if any wrongdoing took place, the Watergate scandal involving Richard Nixon in 1974, which "set the standard by which all ensuing scandals are measured," and Bill Clinton's perjury charge about an extra-marital affair in 1999. While not covered in-depth, the 2016 presidential election is discussed to explain that the framers would be surprised to learn that impeachment was used as a talking point by both candidates against each other. **VERDICT** An engrossing work about a consequential subject, this is a must for readers of history and politics, as well as those interested in the current state and future of the nation.—**David Miller, Farmville P.L., NC**

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