The Classical world: the foundations of the West and the enduring legacy of antiquity, Nigel Spivey (book review)

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and Life magazines during World War II. The result is this engaging debut. While Jacoby was lesser known than Ernie Pyle or Ernest Hemingway, he was nevertheless an instrumental, well-respected presence during the late 1930s and early 1940s. After graduating from Stanford University, Jacoby began a journalism career in 1936 that led him from the manufacturing hub of Chuncing, China to the Philippine island of Corregidor in 1942 and ultimately to Brisbane, Australia. Jacoby’s quest for truth brought him in contact with luminaries such as Madame Chiang Kai-shek, first lady of the Republic of China, and U.S. Gen. Douglas MacArthur. The title is a bit of misdirection; only the last third of the book details the exciting escape from the Philippine province of Bataan that Jacoby and his wife, screenwriter and foreign correspondent Annalee Whitmore, undertook on a blockade runner. However, Lascher succeeds in highlighting Jacoby’s brief yet important life using never before published letters and interviews. VERDICT This work will find itself at home among other World War II biographies and memoirs such as Elizabeth M. Norton’s other World War II biographies and memoirs. Jun. 2016. 768p. illus. maps. notes. index. ISBN 9781469626635. $45; ebk. ISBN 9781469626925. HST “Common cause” was a phrase often utilized in Europe during the 18th century to justify imperial alliances against a shared enemy. In this engrossing monograph, Parkinson (history, Binghamton Univ.) recounts how colonial leaders, including George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin, co-opted the phrase through colonial newspapers to bind the 13 colonies to fight the American Revolution. Their aims were achieved through the constant publication of inflammatory articles alleging that Great Britain was arming Native Americans and Africans to wage war on the respective colonies. While kernels of truth existed in a fraction of the stories, they were at best gross exaggerations, if not outright fabrications. The consequence of the tactic was that when the war was over, it ensured that there was no place in the new country for Native peoples or Africans and their descendants. This included those people of color who were devoted patriots who had fought and died alongside the colonists for the common cause. VERDICT A must-read for anyone interested in the American Revolution and issues of race. For further exploration, consider James Corbett David’s Dunmore’s New World.—John R. Burch, Campbellsville Univ., KY

Spivey, Nigel. The Classical World: The Foundations of the West and the Enduring Legacy of Antiquity. Pegasus, Jul. 2016. 288p. maps. index. ISBN 9781681771519. $27.95; ebk. ISBN 9781681771915. HST In this study of the foundations of the Western world’s classical ideals, historian Spivey (classical art, Cambridge Univ.; The Ancient Olympics) addresses his topic by centering each chapter on one of nine cities, with the named metropolis acting as a focal point to discuss major events and concepts of Greek and Roman civilization, and a tenth chapter, “Utopia,” exploring philosophy and the sciences. This conceit works well in some sections but results in unevenness in others; while the segments on Athens and Sparta nicely balance the topical locales and their relation to wider historical concerns, “Syracuse” wanders from its city and discussion of Greek colonization into a lengthy section on Olympia and the Olympic games. The chapter on Pergamon is markedly short. Spivey’s descriptions of historical facts and personas read smoothly, but his re-

liability is sometimes undercut by startling errors, such as naming Ares and not Eris as the instigator of the mythological Judgment of Paris. VERDICT A serviceable overall look at Graeco–Roman history and its ideals, hampered in its aims by a scattered focus and noticeable slips in detail.—Kathleen McCallister, Tulane Univ., New Orleans

**LAW & CRIME
Kushner, David. Alligator Candy: A Memoir. S. & S. Mar. 2016. 256p. ISBN 9781451682533. $26; ebk. ISBN 9781451682632. CRIME One of the takeaways from this book by Kushner (contributing editor, Rolling Stone; Ferris Professor of Journalism, Princeton Univ.; Masters of Doom) is that loss cannot be avoided—it stays with a person for however long they need it to, but it can also provide insight into one’s approach to life. When the author was four years old, his older brother, Jon, was kidnapped and murdered near their house in Florida. This memoir describes Kushner’s experience after that defining moment, and the ways in which, looking back, he sees how events later were linked to that dark day. His writing effectively moves the reader to feel a range of emotions along with his family as they wait during the days Jon is missing, hear the news of his death, learn about the killers, and carry on in their own lives. It is heart-wrenching but also shows how families unite and continue forward with the memories of a loved one. VERDICT This emotional account invites readers to journey down a path that at first is in the shade but eventually wanders through strands of sunlight. You will hold those close to you tight after reading. For fans of true crime, books about getting past tragedy, and memoirs.—Ryan Claringbole, Wisconsin Dept. of Pub. Instruction, Madison

Rosen, Jeffery. Louis D. Brandeis: American Prophet. Yale Univ. (Jewish Lives). Jun. 2016. 256p. notes. index. ISBN 9780300158670. $23. LAW Rosen (president & CEO; National Constitu tion Ctr.; law, George Washington Univ. Sch. of Law; The Most Democratic Branch) makes a noteworthy contribution to this series. His compact yet insightful book frames Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis (1856–1941) as an “American Prophet,” as proclaimed in the subtitle. While the biography explores and elucidates a number of Brandeis’s major judicial opinions such as Erie v. Tompkins, it creates an expansive view of Brandeis’s life in its totality. Thus, Brandeis was much more than a distinguished jurist; he was a prophet and philosopher in the Jeffersonian democratic tradition. As articulated in the first chapter,