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Princes at war: the bitter battle inside Britain's royal family in the darkest days of WWII, Deborah Cadbury (book review)

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a college with a clear focus and commitment to undergraduates. **VERDICT** A clear and insightful description of developments in computer-based learning and potential changes in higher education; however, the analysis of current problems and experimentation is more convincing than the vision of how U.S. colleges and universities will actually evolve.—**Elizabeth Hayford, formerly with Associated Coll. of the Midwest, Evanston, IL**

Zimmerman, Jonathan. *Too Hot To Handle: A Global History of Sex Education.*

Princeton Univ. Mar. 2015. 288p. notes. index. ISBN 9780691143101. \$29.95. **ED**

How easy it is to overlook sex education. After all, for most of us in the United States, instruction in the topic meant just a few weeks during our four years in high school. The mass media, as Zimmerman (history of education, New York Univ.; *Small Wonder*) points out, has always had a “much more profound effect on children’s sexuality in the twentieth century than any set of formal educational institutions.” Yet this relatively obscure corner of the curriculum still managed to provoke armies of opposition wherever it appeared. Zimmerman demonstrates how and why sex education remains one of the most controversial educational issues. While early proponents saw it primarily as a means to reduce high rates of venereal disease, later advocates urged a more holistic approach that would emphasize sexual enjoyment and encourage healthy relationships. But sex education encountered resistance from parents who considered the subject best taught at home. Caught in the middle, of course, were the teachers. Partly because of the constant threat of retaliation, sex educators practiced self-censorship. According to one fairly recent poll cited by Zimmerman, one-third of U.S. teachers said that their schools were “nervous” about community reaction to sex education, while one-fifth reported omitting references to certain topics in class.

VERDICT Zimmerman’s well-researched book is sprinkled with fascinating capsule biographies of long-forgotten historical figures. While the author is not the first historian to write about sex education, his transnational perspective yields a number of valuable insights. Recommended to both lay readers and scholars interested in educational history.—**Seth Kershner, Northwestern Connecticut Community Coll. Lib., Winsted**

HISTORY

Cadbury, Deborah. *Princes at War: The Bitter Battle Inside Britain’s Royal Family in the Darkest Days of WWII.*

PublicAffairs. Mar. 2015. 384p. photos. notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781610394031. \$28.99; ebk. ISBN 9781610394048. **HIST**

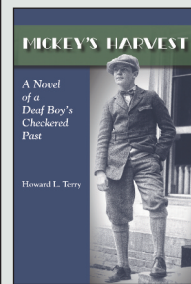
This account begins with the domino-toppling moment in 1936 when Edward VIII abdicated the throne of England in order to marry divorcée Wallis Simpson—an action that left him as the controversial Duke of Windsor, elevated the stammering Prince Albert to take up the reins of kingship as George VI, and forced the stiff Prince Henry and thrill-seeking Prince George into positions of new responsibility. On the heels of this upheaval came increasing aggression from Nazi Germany, leading to the war that would test the mettle and loyalties of all four brothers. As in her previous work *The Chocolate Wars*, Cadbury proves adept at juggling multiple threads and subjects within the historical narrative. Her one weakness is a clear bias toward George VI and against the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, leading to the latter (deserving or not) frequently being excoriated by the text. **VERDICT** Bias aside, this is an engaging, well-told history of England and its royals during its most fragile period; conveying wartime tensions, worldwide scandals, and familial devotions and rivalries with equal vividness.—

Kathleen McCallister, Tulane Univ., New Orleans

Downing, Taylor. *Secret Warriors: The Scientists, Spies, and Code Breakers of World War I.* Pegasus. Apr. 2015. 464p.

notes. bibliog. index. ISBN 9781605986944. \$27.95; ebk. ISBN 9781605987507. **HIST**
Downing (*Churchill’s War Lab; Spies in the Sky*) discusses the role of scientific advancement in the unfolding of World War I and divides his narrative into five sections: aviators such as John Moore-Brabazon, code breakers such as Alexander Denniston; engineers and chemists such as Chaim Weizmann, the first president of Israel; doctors and surgeons such as Harold Gillies, who later pioneered sexual reassignment surgery; and propagandists such as newspaper baron Lord Beaverbrook, a member of Winston Churchill’s cabinet. A helpful appendix, “Who’s Who of Secret Warriors,” contains brief biographical sketches of the more than 20 major players, many of whom were affiliated with Churchill in some aspect. In general, the content is engaging, providing an in-depth look at a subject that doesn’t get its fair share of discussion within the military history genre. While history buffs will feel right at home, general readers of nonfiction may be put off by the frequent topic changes and nonlinear story thread, which at times makes this account read a bit like an exciting textbook. However, this is a very successful work. Downing’s voice is clear and highly readable. **VERDICT** This volume should be of interest to most readers, especially those interested in military history.—**John Helling, Bloomfield-Eastern Greene Cty. P.L., IN**

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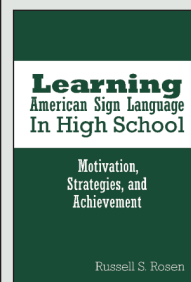
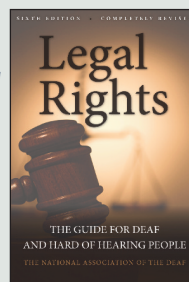
ISBN 978-1-56368-636-8, 5½ x 8½ pb., 232 pp., \$29.95, **February 2015**

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